

Hafa Adai!

Fuel prices raised, again. **PAGE 4**

Judge Manglona issues show-cause order vs IPI. **Page 4**

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COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY LEVEL

CNMI still at 'Code Yellow'



'NEW NORMAL' GRADUATION

KRIZEL TUAZON

Saipan Southern High School students aboard their vehicles gather at the Civic Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon, June 9, for their drive-thru graduation. The ceremony started at 4pm, starting point at the Civic Center basketball court and ending with a convoy all the way to Saipan Southern High School.

See Story on Page 5

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite new COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, the Commonwealth remains at Level Yellow, which is midway between Red, which is the least safe level, and Green, which is the safest.

This is because there is a higher proportion of negative results among an increasing number of people being tested, according to the COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Task Force chair Warren Villagomez reiterates that the

transition to different levels is like a "water valve," which means it can go up or down.

See **CODE YELLOW** on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Additions to CNMI total identified thru arrival screening, quarantine

AT A GLANCE

As of 5pm, June 10, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	180	0	180
Recovered	163	0	163
Active	12	0	12
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,185		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Recovered	19	0	19
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	7,523		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

The two persons added to the CNMI's total count of coronavirus infections, which now stands at 30 positive COVID-19 cases, were identified through the arrival screening and quarantine process required for all incoming international passengers, according to an Office of the Governor statement.

It said the two new people diagnosed with COVID-19 have no symptoms, but were placed under quarantine pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order for incoming travelers, and were identified as positive for the virus.

Of the 30 confirmed cases in the CNMI, 23% (seven cases) have been identified through testing at the Governor's CO-

See **ADDITIONS** on Page 4

House panel to look into AG opinion on Yutu overtimes

» To address concerns on overtime incurred in COVID-19 operations

legedly made to some CNMI government employees as it responds to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This comes soon after the See **HOUSE** on Page 4

Attorney General Edward Manibusan talks about the letter he sent to the Office of the Public Auditor in January, asking for a review on the circumstances surrounding the payments made to government employees during Super Typhoon Yutu.

IVA MAURIN



By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the Office of the Public Auditor to review the circumstances in which overtime payments were al-

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Lena Ruiz of online shop Lena's Creations left her job to live out her dream.

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NATION

George Floyd is fondly remembered as "Big Floyd" at his funeral.

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WORLD

The United Nations call for immediate action to avoid a "global food emergency."

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

DPW works on long-term parking for CHCC

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Works broke ground last May 1 on a parking lot that is being built for the Commonwealth Health Center, to replace the upper parking space that is now occupied by the temporary hospital, the Medical Care and Treatment Site.

Mike Borja, director of the Division of Roads and Grounds under DPW, said that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force reached out to DPW to create the new parking lot and expand CHC's parking space. The new parking lot will fit a total of 136 cars (80 reserved for accessible parking).

According to Borja, a total of 6,000 square feet of space adjacent to the hospital was cleared; it is unclear how many trees had to be cut down to make the space available. Additionally, there is no target date on when the parking lot will be finished. Once the paving is done, DPW will add lighting and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be

inspecting it.

Borja stated that they are now on the final stage of the paving process, which includes compacting and leveling the ground. Borja said that compacting is an important part of the process since it will determine the quality of the parking lot.

Since there's no way to tell when the MCATS will no longer be needed, Borja said that DPW recommended making the parking lot permanent. "Our recommendation is to have it paved and fence it for the sole purpose of parking for [the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., which runs CHC]," said Borja. It will be up to CHCC if they want to put a security guard to watch over the parking lot, he added.

Borja said that DPW will also be coming up with a plan to reallocate or adjust the flow of traffic in the new lot. The area is known as a "traffic-prone area." This means that the flow of traffic gets really busy, especially since it is adjacent to the Grace Christian Academy, a community center, and other government buildings.

DPW had to go through the Historic Preservation Office under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, and the Division of Fish and Wildlife in order to start the project and get a permit that will allow them to convert what was once a jungle area into a parking lot.

Besides Borja, the project is also under the purview of Joey Castro, branch manager of Roads and Grounds under DPW; James Reyes, designer and technical services division under DPW; and Gani Salazar, engineer under DPW's technical service division. They all work under DPW Secretary James Ada.

"I would like to ask the community to respect that area because at the bottom, there is an old Japanese well," said Borja.

He stated that since there are approximately 600 employees at CHCC, and with the population growing, it will be beneficial for CHCC to keep the parking lot there.

COVID-19 in Guam

conclusive results. Zero tested positive and 171 tested negative.

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, results include 84 samples from COVID-19 drive-thru testing

held at the DPHSS Southern Regional Community Health Center in Inarajan.

To date, Guam has a total of 180 confirmed cases with five deaths, 163 released from isolation, and 12 active cases.



CONGRATULATION!

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios lead their staff in congratulating the 2020 graduates on convoy passing by the Governor's Office on Capitol Hill yesterday.

IVA MAURIN



Legislators congratulate the 2020 graduates on convoy passing by the Legislature's Office on Capitol Hill yesterday. From left, Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Rep. Ivan Blanco (R-Saipan), Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan), Rep. Joel Camacho (R-Saipan), Sen. Vinnie Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), and Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan).

IVA MAURIN

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COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services tested 171 individuals for COVID-19 last June 9 with

conclusive results. Zero tested positive and 171 tested negative.

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BLM PROTEST

KRIZEL TUAZON

"Black Lives Matter" protesters line a stretch of Beach Road in San Jose last Friday to support the many demonstrations sweeping across the United States and other parts of the world to protest racial discrimination and police brutality.



Probationer says he can't stop using 'ice' once he gets started

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Probation Office wants the probation of Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa revoked after he tested positive for illegal controlled substances more than thrice in just one year.

U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that Basa admitted last June 4 and Tuesday that he used methamphetamine or "ice" again, and that he finds it difficult to stop using methamphetamine once he gets started.

In his declaration in support of a petition for revocation, Arriola said he told Basa to report to his office last June 4 for a random drug test. He said Basa acknowledged the instruction but failed to report at the designated time. An hour later, Basa called Arriola, allegedly admitting that he had "relapsed" and used "ice" the night before.

Arriola said the probationer stated that his pending court matter was one of the driving factors behind his drug use. He said he instructed Basa to stop further drug use and to avoid going to high-risk areas.

Arriola said Basa was instructed Tuesday to report to his office for another random drug test. Arriola said Basa stated that he may still be positive from his previous "ice" use. The probation officer said he informed Basa that the substance from his last reported use should no longer be in his system.

He said Basa eventually admitted that he used "ice" two days earlier and that he was having a hard time stopping.

With the shutdown of the Hinemlu O'hala Para Enteramenti Recovery Center, or the HOPE Recovery Center, due to COVID-19 pandemic, Basa, who was among the occupants of the facility, went back to home last March and allegedly used methamphetamine and consumed an alcoholic beverage.

Arriola informed the court last April that Basa violated the conditions of his probation.

Arriola said that he received a call last March 29 from HOPE Recovery Center drug counselor Doreen Kintol that due to the current coronavirus pandemic, their facility was temporarily shutting down until further notice. This meant that the occupants of the HOPE Recovery Center, which included Basa, would be discharged from the facility, Arriola said. Later that evening, Arriola said, he received a call from Basa who shared the information given by Kintol and related that he was moving back to his home in Afetnas the following day. He said Basa also admitted that prior to their phone conversation, he was subjected to a random drug test and tested positive for methamphetamine.

The probation officer said that he received a call from Basa's wife last March 31, advising him that Basa was drinking alcohol. Arriola said that when he spoke and confronted Basa about the information, Basa admitted he had consumed five cans of beer to help him relax after a long day of doing outside house chores.

Arriola stated that he was working at that time to refer Basa to another treatment vendor for substance abuse treatment since services.

Last Feb. 4, Arriola also informed the court that Basa admitted using methamphetamine last Jan. 12. Basa appeared in court last Feb. 19 and admitted to the allegation.

According to court records, in 2006 the District Court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of methamphetamine. He was placed on probation after completing the prison term. The court had revoked Basa's supervised release several times in the past mainly due to using methamphetamine or "ice."

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FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH COURT DISCOVERY ORDERS

Manglona issues show-cause order vs IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to explain why the court should not enter a default judgment against it for its failure to comply with court discovery orders in connection with a lawsuit filed by seven former workers against IPI.

Manglona set a hearing on the show-cause matter tomorrow, Friday, at 9am.

Manglona said IPI's history of failing to adequately respond to the seven former workers' discovery requests—which was first made in September 2019—is fully set forth in her May 5, 2020, order granting plaintiffs

\$29,459 in attorneys' fees and costs. The judge said the first sanction was imposed at a December 2019 hearing with IPI's first former counsel. Despite this sanction, Manglona said the saga to force IPI to produce the discovery continued. Last April 16, she granted the plaintiffs' second motion for sanctions against IPI with its second former counsel. Manglona then set deadlines for IPI to comply with the discovery requests, with a warning to IPI that she would impose a sanction of \$2,000 per day if IPI fails to comply with the sanctions order. At a status conference last May 28, the judge found that IPI failed to meet the deadlines, this time with Michael W. Dotts as IPI's current counsel.

For these violations, Manglona ordered IPI to pay the \$2,000 daily

sanction starting from May 16.

The judge specifically ordered IPI to transfer its electronically stored information data to plaintiffs within seven days. The next day, IPI informed the court that, after consulting with its ESI vendor, it would be impossible to comply with that deadline.

After IPI agreed to place them in direct contact, plaintiffs and the vendor negotiated an agreement to transfer the data as ordered by the court.

On June 5, 2020, the court ordered IPI again to transfer its ESI data to plaintiffs, this time by June 12, 2020. Manglona further ordered IPI to submit certification that it had tendered the necessary payments to its vendor for the timely transfer of the ESI data.

Last Tuesday, IPI informed the

court that it has not made the necessary payments to the ESI vendor and it is not willing to pay the costs associated with this case, including plaintiffs' attorneys' fees and costs as ordered by the court.

IPI informed the court that the company could still not pay the

\$122,449 in total sanctions and costs that are due in connection with a pending lawsuit filed by seven former workers.

IPI, through Dotts, submitted before the court a certification about its failure to pay certain sanctions and costs.

Fuel prices raised, again

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The price of fuel in the CNMI continues to rise, nearing the pre-pandemic gas price level in less than a month.

Last Wednesday, the CNMI saw its third gas price hike in a month, with Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. taking the lead and raising the price per gallon of their Extra fuel by 15 cents. Shell Marianas followed suit on Thursday morning.

Gas prices went up from \$3.38 for a gallon of Extra fuel to \$3.53 per gallon, while the Supreme fuel went from \$3.71 per gallon to \$3.86. The price of fuel in the CNMI before the government shutdown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was at \$3.83.

According to a Shell gas attendant who asked for anonymity, he isn't shocked. "It's expected. As the economy continues to get back on its feet, we should expect prices to return to what it was before the pandemic,"

he said.

He doesn't believe this is illegal as it relates to the anti-price gouging laws, because gas prices are not decided by the Saipan management. "From what I know, we change our gas prices according to our office in Guam. They just ring us up and inform us if gas [prices] went up or went down. We have no control here," he said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the upward trend in gas prices is being seen worldwide as countries slowly start to reopen their economies and lockdowns are lifted.

In San Diego in the United States, gas prices went up for the ninth time in just 10 days, while gas prices in Detroit continue to climb.

Florida has also seen a significant jump in fuel prices as they work on reopening their economy following a lockdown as a result of COVID-19. Texas saw its first gas increase in two months since the outbreak of COVID-19 back in March.

CODE YELLOW

From Page 1

"We'll open up if we see that it's feasible and safe, tightening up if there's risk," he added.

There are now a total of 30 COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, with nine active cases and a total of 7,523 specimens collected on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota through the mass testing initiative.

Movements and elevations between levels are being discussed, while being mindful of the number of new positive cases on the islands, according to Villagomez, who said these are evaluated each day.

"Right now, we are discussing all these matters in a group setting. All the different criteria and elements are put on the table and we assess them thoroughly to make sure that the decision that's made is for public

health, safety, and to make sure that our economy is being thought out," he added.

The task force, with the CHCC contact tracing team, pursue different techniques to spearhead and mitigate risk as they conduct their daily operation, Villagomez said, and that all the elements that are in place are outlined to effectively administer services and care.

"It's a moving target everyday for us. We are also working along with [health provider] Marianas Health [LLC], all the different health services out there, to get into the vulnerable population, the bed-bound population, the *Man'amko* Center, to get them tested so we can safeguard our elderly," he added. "Nothing is stable, nothing is firm in regards to our color coding. ... Unless the governor changes that executive order to a different order, those are the directions for us to adhere on."

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, at his

radio news briefing last Monday, explained that the vulnerability color levels are guidelines for the community and businesses, and that the colors can be adjusted if needed. "Would it be possible to go down? Yes. If we have a surge of 1,000, or we're seeing a number of surge cases coming in. But if we all as a community continue to practice social distancing and continue to see the progress we've made, there won't be any reason. We're moving in that direction. Unless something drastic happens to our community, we're going to move forward on changing those colors accordingly," he said.

Right now, the task force is assuring all in the community that the CNMI has a mechanism in place, with test kits available, to administer the services and minimizing the risk of COVID-19, whether it is for inbound passengers or the community, in general.

HOUSE

From Page 1

House Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding initiated an investigation into COVID-19-related overtime payment requests.

Speaking in an interview yesterday, Attorney General Edward Manibusan said, "We've got to be a transparent government, and you cannot have corruption in government. It's a no brainer."

Last January, the OAG issued an opinion to OPA on payments made to government employees during the Super Typhoon Yutu operations, the findings of which, once finalized, could provide guidance on the legitimacy of overtime payments made under COVID-19 operations. The letter

asked the OPA to review the overtime payments made during Yutu.

"The office, being responsible for certain issues relating to the use of public funds, after having received concerns about the extraordinary pay that were given to certain government employees, I sent a letter to the Public Auditor to review the circumstances in which those payments were made," said Manibusan in his latest interview.

In the case of the Yutu-related overtime payment, he explained that the three different tiers of government employees—civil service, exempt service, and exempt employees—are treated differently in terms of payment, either for overtime pay or for extraordinary payment.

"We're actually referring to this extraordinary payment of the 2.5. Each of this tier of employees is en-

titled to some kind of overtime pay, but with respect to extraordinary payment, there are certain of this tier that will be exempted from that," he said.

"We wanted the Office of the Public Auditor to review the law, as we found that to be inconsistent with what we thought was a payment, and so they're going to take a look at that," he added.

Manibusan also explained why his letter has not been made available to the public yet. "We have a professional code of responsibility that we have as lawyers and when we write legal opinion or things of that nature to another agency, that should be kept confidential until such time that it can be reviewed and made available to the public."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

ADDITIONS

From Page 1

VID-19 Task Force Quarantine Facility at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. assured that many interventions are in place to protect the community from the spread of COVID-19 within the CNMI, and

care for those who are diagnosed. "Our recent cases...highlights the value of [our] border containment effort. Combined with immediate contact tracing, these interventions are key in minimizing the risk of exposure for COVID-19 to the community," the statement adds.

Additionally, CHCC and Governor's Task Force have changed how information on people who

contract the COVID-19 virus is reported. In order to maintain privacy, from now on, "we will only share information...[on] age range, method of identification (community testing, known contact of a previous case, or incoming travel), and how the new case affects the Community Vulnerability Rating for the CNMI. (*Saipan Tribune*)

PUA

From Page 1

lost or interrupted as a direct result of COVID-19. Direct result means loss of employment or self-employment because of a reason directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The PUA program, in general, provides up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits.

The U.S. Department of Labor oversees the PUA program and reimburses the CNMI Department of Labor for both the program administration and benefit payment costs.

What is FPUC?

Individuals who receive at least one dollar (\$1) of PUA benefits for a week, will also receive an additional \$600 supplemental payment under the FPUC program described under section 2104 of the CARES Act. However, the time period that a claimant can receive the FPUC supplemental payment is more limited than the duration of the PUA payments. For the CNMI, FPUC is payable only for weeks of unemployment beginning on or after March 29, 2020. FPUC is not payable to any individual for any week of unemployment occurring after July 31, 2020.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR PUA/FPUC?

PUA and FPUC are available to citizens of the United States, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, the CNMI, Guam, Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, American Samoa, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and qualified aliens who reside and work in the CNMI who became unemployed, unable to work, or not available to work as a direct result of the COVID-19

public health emergency.

Individuals who are self-employed, those seeking part-time employment, or individuals who were about to start a job but could not begin work because of COVID-19 are also eligible for PUA and FPUC.

A list of acceptable COVID-19 related reasons to qualify for PUA are as follows:

■ The individual has been diagnosed with COVID-19 or is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and is seeking a medical diagnosis;

■ A member of the individual's household has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ The individual is providing care for a family member or a member of the individual's household who has been diagnosed with COVID-19;

■ A child or other person in the household for which the individual has primary caregiving responsibility is unable to attend school or another facility that is closed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency and such school or facility care is required for the individual to work;

■ The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because of a quarantine imposed as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

■ The individual is unable to reach the place of employment because the individual has been advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID-19;

■ The individual was scheduled to commence employment and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

G4S joins long list of businesses that is suing IPI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A security company joins a long list of businesses that is suing the financially-troubled Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC for alleged non-payment of services.

G4S Secure Solutions (CNMI) Inc. through counsel Michael White, is suing IPI to collect \$9,544, plus interest from March 31, 2020. G4S,

UOG to host 3-day virtual job fair

Jobseekers in the Guam community will have three upcoming opportunities to speak with employers and interview for jobs on the spot at the University of Guam's 2020 Job Fair. The annual job fair will be held virtually for the first time from 10am to noon on June 10, 17, and 24.

The fair is open to graduating seniors, UOG alumni, and the public. Interested participants and employers can register free of charge at url.uog.edu/2020jobfair. Upon registration, participants will receive a unique link to join the virtual job fair.

The growing list of participating employers includes: Aflac, FBI, Guam Army National Guard, Joint Region Marianas, McDonald's, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Premier International Inc., University of Guam, West-Care Pacific Islands Inc., and Xerox Corp.

Six to eight employers will be available at each day of the job fair. The main meeting room will inform participants of the various employment opportunities and when breakout sessions for each employer will begin. Participants may request entrance into any employers' breakout room, where employers will show a short presentation on their company or organization and available job opportunities. Representatives will then arrange for interviews with interested individuals in private breakout rooms.

Employers may sign up to participate in any or all of the three dates.

Participants should have digital versions of their résumés and cover letters ready to send electronically. They should dress professionally and ensure their environment is safe and suitable for video and audio discussions. Participants will need a stable internet connection and a device with a webcam, microphone, and speakers to fully participate in the job fair. Some sessions may be recorded for later reference. (PR)

which does business as G4S Cash Solutions, also asked the Superior Court to order IPI pay court costs and interest.

Saipan Tribune was waiting for comments from IPI as of

press time yesterday.

According to White in the complaint filed Tuesday, IPI is in default on their agreement with G4S in that it has not paid for services. G4S

SSHS sees 160 graduates

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School held a motorcade and a virtual graduation to commemorate the achievement of its 160 seniors, who have gone through many hurdles to get to this point.

According to Vince Dela Cruz, SSHS principal, he and his staff worked tirelessly to provide some form of ceremony for this year's graduating class because they endured so many traumatic events in the last four years that they deserve to have their successes commemorated.

"These students endured Typhoon Soudelor, Super Typhoon Yutu, and now COVID-19. They went through so much and they're here, they

made it, happy, and parents are still very supportive. I want to give a huge shoutout to the parents because they endured a lot also," he said.

Although he finds it sad that his class had to go out with just a virtual ceremony, SSHS salutatorian Glen John Matalog said it's better than not having any graduation celebration at all. "It's tragic that the Class of 2020 had to end this way but, at the end of the day, it is what it is and we have to make do with what we've got," he said in his salutatory speech, adding that this only teaches that if at first you don't get what you want out of life, you should continue to try, even if it means taking a different approach.

"Sometimes no matter how

agreed to provide cash and/or ATM services for IPI. That was later amended to include daily pick-up and delivery of money in sealed bags from the Best Sunshine casino to Bank of Saipan. G4S also provided pick-up and delivery of sealed bags from Bank of Saipan to

the casino.

White said that, despite demand, IPI has failed, refused, and neglected to pay the sums or any part of it.

IPI is facing multiple lawsuits in federal court. Many companies and individuals also sued IPI before the Supe-

rior Court for non-payment of services and other reasons.

A contractor on Monday obtained a writ of execution from the federal court that directs the U.S. Marshal to seize IPI's money in the amount at least \$6.9 million from four banks on Saipan.

LET US KEEP YOU CONNECTED

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To maintain your **DOCOMO PACIFIC** services, please call 488-CARE by June 15th, 2020.

Our friendly CARE representatives are ready to assist you.

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Better Together

Awards

Top 10:

- Iris Kim Lee,
- Glen John Matalog
- Bernadette Jacinto
- Rio Shadow
- Ye Lee Christina Cha
- Earl Joseph Garcia
- Roger Keith Valencia
- Kyla Mei Tuazon
- Lovely Mae Mariano
- Joemari Pulido

■ Iris Kim Lee: Valedictorian, Board of Education award, Governor's Leadership Award, English Language Arts, Math, Japanese Language and Culture

■ Glenn John Matalog: Commissioner of Education award, Japanese Language and Culture,

■ Roger Keith Valencia: Principal's List award, JROTC

■ Aeyanna Maratita: English Language Arts

- Earl Garcia: Math, Science
- Kyla Tuazon: Science
- Rio Shadow: Social Studies
- Isabelle Evangelista: Social Studies
- Emelsha Cepeda: CCLHS
- Ye Lee Cha: Japanese Language and Culture, Band, Cooperative Education
- Richard Balearos: Physical Education
- Hanna Mae Quiambao: Choir
- Akari Saito: Art
- Natalie Bait: Cooperative Education
- Abigail Padilla: Cooperative Education

tion

- Joemari Pulido: Cooperative Education
- Mark Sagun: Digital Media
- Joshua Waldo: Digital Media
- Derrick Atalig: Woodwork
- Dorcb Ayuuy: Woodwork
- Theresita Borja: Woodwork
- Trinny Igisair: Woodwork
- Jhon Raymart Reyes: Woodwork
- Sylvina Simran: Woodwork
- Ro'anna Tudela: Woodwork

PUBLIC NOTICE

Docomo Pacific, Inc. proposes to build a 100-foot monopole.

The site location is 42nd St and Broadway, Tinian, 96952 or at coordinates 14-58-51.0 N, 145-37-50.6 E.

The FCC ASR, Form 854 file number is A1167971.

Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the file number.

Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest). The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554



CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Department of Commerce, Central Statistics Division is now conducting the **CNMI 2020 Prevailing Wage Study (2020 PWS)** survey and notifies all businesses and employers, private and public, in the CNMI to log on to the CSD Data Collection Portal and complete the 2020 PWS survey questionnaire.

Every business and employer, even if you do not have any employees, is urged to **complete this survey before June 30, 2020.**

2020 PWS Data Collection Portal Link:
<http://cnmidata.commerce.gov.mp/>

Karidat \$1-A-Bag Rummage Sale is back

Karidat Social Service will revive its \$1-A-Bag Rummage Sale today, June 11, at the Sister Remedios Community Center in Chalan Kanoa.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Karidat's rummage sale was shut down but many

have been asking when the thrift shop will return.

The rummage sale will begin at 9am and last until 12pm. Karidat is inviting everyone.

"Customers will purchase a plastic bag for \$1 and everything they can fit in that bag

is just \$1. Shoppers may purchase more than just one bag," said Karidat executive director Lauri Ogumoro.

Generous donations of gently used clothing and household goods came from community members.

"We will allow up to 20 persons into the area. We may also limit the shopping time as needed [to comply with the government's social distancing measures]," said Ogumoro.

"We are thankful to the community for holding on to their donations during the lockdown. After this rummage

sale this week, we will be able to start taking donations again. We therefore ask that the clothing be gently used and clean, as we do not have any way to clean the donations and we all need to do our part to protect each other," she added.

Karidat's goal is to have a soft opening of its thrift shop next

week, June 15, starting in the mornings from 9am to 12pm.

All proceeds from the rummage sales and thrift shop will go toward restocking the Karidat's food pantry.

For more information and updates, visit the Karidat CNMI Facebook page. *(Chevy Alipio)*

JKPL offers summer reading program

This summer, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library offers a summer reading program for people of all ages to encourage them to read, engage in science and technology activities, explore new authors and genres, and discover the different types of materials the library offers. The summer reading program, called Package-to-Go!, is also a great way to encourage kids to keep reading when they aren't going to school.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, JKPL will offer an innovative adventure as we "Imagine Your Story" in our Package-to-Go! Each Package-to-Go includes books, more books, activities and supplies.

The library's summer reading theme is "Imagine Your Story." Registration is open from June 9, 2020 to Friday, June 19, 2020. Contact the library at 235-7322 or 7323(READ) to register your whole family. The program is free and open for all ages 0-adult! The Package-to-Go! is open to the first 500 registered participants, prioritizing underserved and underprivileged children. Package-to-Go! distribution will begin Tuesday, June 30, 2020.

What to do before you

call to register?

1. Have your Joeten-Kiyu Public Library card# ready for children ages 6 years of age and older. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use their library card to register their children ages 0 years to 5 years.

2. Name and Age/Date of Birth of participating family members

3. Village

4. Contact telephone number

5. Email(optional)

Families are encouraged to register and take this opportunity. Patrons who need to apply for a library card must contact the library and make an appointment to apply for a library card. Note: Patrons with fines must clear at least half of their fines in order to register for the Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go!.

Programs and activities are made possible by generous Educational Tax Credit donors, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, community partners, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Community members, businesses, and government agencies who would like to sponsor the library's Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go! are encouraged to contact the JKPL at (670) 235-7316 or 7323 or 7322. *(PR)*



Leaders from eight island universities and colleges came together to exchange sustainability initiatives within their respective campuses for the Presidential Summit at the 10th UOG Regional Conference on Island Sustainability in April 2019. From left, Dr. Robert A. Underwood, president emeritus, UOG; Seok-eon Song, president, Jeju National University; Elsa Manarpaac, president, Western Philippines University; Frankie M. Eliptico, interim president, Northern Marianas College; Thomas W. Krise, president, UOG; Therese Koroivulaono, president, College of the Marshall Islands; Mary A.Y. Okada, president, Guam Community College; Dale Webber, principal and pro vice chancellor, University of the West Indies, Mona campus; and Dr. David Lassner, president, University of Hawaii. **UNIVERSITY OF GUAM**

Five university presidents to headline last session of UOG's sustainability conference

The University of Guam Virtual Conference Series on Island Sustainability will end tomorrow with its seventh and final installment featuring a lineup of university presidents and capacity builders from across the globe.

The session will take place at 9am, focusing on the theme of "Achieving A Sustainable Global Future through Quality Education and Capacity Building." Registration is free at www.uog.edu/cis2020.

The panel of speakers, who collectively oversee a student population of more than 150,000, will focus on the critical role universities and educational programs play in

achieving a global sustainable future. Panelists will share different approaches they are taking to prepare students and their communities to engage in sustainability solutions.

Panel 1, moderated by UOG senior vice president and provost Anita Borja Enriquez, will focus on "Quality Education" and will feature Michael M. Crow, president, Arizona State University; David Hall, president, University of the Virgin Islands; Harlene Hayne, vice chancellor, University of Otago (New Zealand); Thomas W. Krise, president, University of Guam; and David Lassner, president, University of Hawaii.

Panel 2, moderated by Rachael T. Leon Guerrero, vice provost for research and sponsored programs at UOG, will focus on "Building Capacity" and will feature Carlos J. Crespo, vice provost for undergraduate training in biomedical research, Portland State University; T. Kā'eo Duarte, vice president of community engagement and resources, Kamehameha Schools; Kristin Wilson Grimes, research assistant professor, Center for Marine & Environmental Studies, University of the Virgin Islands; and Sonia Zárate, president, Society of the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science

The virtual conference series launched on May 1 in place of the University of Guam's annual weeklong

Conference on Island Sustainability. As a virtual event, the conference saw record-breaking participation with the first session and has now reached 1,800 total participants from 78 countries, states, and territories, along with more than 12,350 views on social media.

The conference is co-chaired by Krise and Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and has featured more than three dozen speakers and moderators from across the globe on topics including clean energy, COVID-19, the circular economy, traditional navigation, gender equality, and women in business.

All sessions from the conference, including the TED Talks-style "CIS Seed Talks," are viewable at www.uog.edu/cis2020. *(PR)*

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ACCOUNTING CLERK

Must have a high school diploma. Degree in accounting is required; No more than 2-year experience. Knowledge of fundamental accounting; Strong knowledge of Excel and Word. Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

(1) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Must have a high school diploma. Minimum five (5) years' work experience with at least one (1) year of supervisory experience, preferably in hospitality. Degree in accounting is required; CPA preferred. Strong knowledge of Excel and Word and must be knowledgeable in using Opera Property Management System, MAS 90 (General Ledger, Accounts payable, Purchase Order, Inventory Management modules), Kronos Payroll System and WebCash Management System. Must be able to work evening, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, June 29th, 2020.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance or online at www.picresorts/saipan/careers. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-015

SUBMISSION DATE: April 22, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Supply, Delivery & Installation of Aluminum Doors & Frames for the NAP Office, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 01, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **NAP Office As Lito**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 8, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ ROBERT H. HUNTER
DCCA, SECRETARY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BIDS ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-013

SUBMISSION DATE: April 22, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Demolition & Expansion of Assembly Room for the NAP Office As Lito, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **June 30, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, **NAP Office As Lito**, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 7, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ JOSEPH A. HUNTER
DCCA, SECRETARY

Financial aid for FSM citizens stranded abroad

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—The government of the Federated States of Micronesia finalized yesterday its procedures for providing financial assistance to FSM citizens who were traveling back to the FSM but, due to the nation closing its borders, became stranded abroad, typically in Guam and Hawaii.

As FSM President David W. Panuelo announced in his state of the nation address, eligible FSM citizens stranded abroad are entitled to financial assistance streamed from a \$300,000 fund for this purpose, which translates to \$1,000 per single adult or \$1,500 per family application.

To obtain this assistance,

eligible applicants must be FSM citizens carrying an FSM passport and citizens stranded due to relocation (i.e. their travel was booked and began prior to the nation's borders closing) are eligible to apply for assistance.

Citizens stranded due to returning home (i.e. whose travel was booked and originated from the FSM, and were returning to the FSM due to no residency elsewhere) but became stranded abroad are also eligible to apply for assistance.

Citizens who have already

received financial assistance through other U.S. federal, FSM national, or insurance coverage may not be eligible for assistance, but are encouraged to apply as each case will be individually considered and cross-checked through official channels.

Applicants must first complete an application form, provide a copy of their passport bio-page for the main applicant (and each additional family member included in the application), and a copy of the itinerary receipt and/or ticket for

the main applicant (and each additional family member included in the application). The FSM national government may request further information if one's application requires further support and review.

The application form can be found here:

<https://dofa.gov.fm/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/FSM-STRANDED-CITIZEN-APPLICATION-FORM.pdf>

Applications and supporting documents can be submitted online to covid19stranded@dofa.gov.fm. However, if a

stranded citizen does not have access to the internet they may apply in person at the FSM Consulates in Hawaii and Guam. Staff at each consulate will assist with the completion of forms and scanning of relevant documentation.

The FSM Consulate in Hawaii is located at 3049 Ualea Street, Suite 412 in Honolulu. Their phone number is (808) 836-4775.

The FSM Consulate in

Guam is located at 1755 Army Drive Route 16 in Harmon. Their phone numbers are (671) 646-9154 and (671) 646-9155.

Successful applicants can receive either a direct deposit to their Bank of the FSM or Bank of Guam accounts, or a physical check through their local FSM Consulate.

For more information on financial assistance for FSM citizens stranded abroad due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions, visit: <https://dofa.gov.fm/assistance-to-stranded-citizen/> (**PR**)

BECQ to enforce anti-littering law during pandemic

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will provide additional enforcement of the CNMI Litter Control Law during the COVID-19 pandemic and will impose penalties on violators as provided under the law.

BECQ has observed an increasing amount of trash and debris on remote beach sites and beaches located on the east side of the island over the last several weeks.

"BECQ is pleading to the community to please clean up before and after utilizing a beach site. Trash in our ocean is a serious problem that threatens the marine environment and dependent livelihoods," said BECQ administrator Eli D. Cabrera.

Pursuant to the Litter Control Act, the following government agencies are mandated to enforce the Litter Control Law: Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Department of Lands & Natural Resource, Bureau of Environmental Health, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Zoning Office, Department of Public Lands, and Department of Public Safety.

Anyone who commits the offense of littering will be fined not less than \$25 and not more than \$5,000. Penalties will be assessed based on the weight, type, and location the act of littering took place.

BECQ reminds the public that all public beaches and

pathways are closed to all activities except for public use for purposes of exercise and wellness, both physical and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing such as talāya, rod and reel, and commercial fishing activities, subject to the social distancing requirements stated in the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives.

"For a sustainable environment, let's work together for the health of our coral reefs and the cleanliness of our beaches for everyone to enjoy," said Cabrera.

Report any littering and illegal dumping activities by contacting BECQ at 664-8500 or the other apprehending government agencies. (**PR**)

Entries sought for writing competition

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is having its first writing competition for the LG-BTQ+ community in the CNMI this June for Pride Month.

The categories for submissions are: Poem, Essay or Short Story. The essay and short story must be a minimum of 500 words. All works must be original and anyone plagiarizing will be disqualified. The competition is open to all ages. The deadline to submit is June 26 and the winners will be announced on June 30.

The prizes are: first place \$500, second \$300 and third \$100. Each island will have its own competition and winners.

Those with winning poems have the option of recording their performance of the poem which will be shared on our social media platforms.

Each submission must have the writer's name, village and contact information. Email all submissions to farah@nmhcouncil.org.

PRIDE Talks is an annual program held by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council each year in June. Last year's event was the screening of the film *Boy Erased* at the Regal Cinemas with guest speakers from the LGBTQ+ community, a doctor, and a pastor who shared experiences, statistics and perspectives. This year the council wants to capture the voices of the LG-BTQ+ in the CNMI by having them share their unique stories, creativity and experiences.


Join the council in celebrating PRIDE in the CNMI. For more information, call council staff at 235-4785 or email farah@nmhcouncil.org. (**PR**)



NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Auztyn Mendiola Dela Cruz on your 8th grade promotion from Hopwood Middle School. We are so very proud of you. Greetings come from your entire family and especially from Ulyana and Keliiah.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 • Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Phone: (670) 234-5498 Ext. 6804 • www.marianas.edu

AMENDMENT #1

Building Demolition Project:

Buildings A, A1, B, B1 C, D, E, F, G, H, I, Q, R & S

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 20-0002

Northern Marianas College (The College) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the building demolition project at the NMC Saipan campus.

Specifications and Scope of Work packets may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing May 27, 2020 between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m.** for the Electronic packet, please send request to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

Pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 11, 2020 at 9:00 am. Attendance is strongly recommended. NMC continues to practice social distancing due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. The pre-bid conference and virtual tour will take place through video conference technology, Zoom. Zoom Meeting ID No.: 928 5800 5961

Electronic Bid submissions:
NMCIFB20-0002@marianas.edu
Due Date/Time: 10:00 am, June 19, 2020, Chamorro, Standard Time (ChST).


Hard copies Bid submissions:
Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg. O, As Terlaje Campus
Due Date and Time: 10:00am, June 19, 2020, (ChST).

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through US Department of Education, Emergency Assistance to Institution of Higher Education Grant, award no. P938T190005. Provisions of Public Law 15-95 as amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference, are not available for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

Approved by:

/s/ Anita Camacho
Procurement & Property Manager



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC-IFB-20-022

S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and forcemain inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer – nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Is there a double standard on coronavirus safety for protests?

When thousands of people started crowding city streets across the nation two weeks ago to protest the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers, where was the outcry about the risk of a new COVID-19 outbreak? Why weren't the voices that were so quick to condemn the unmasked conservatives who protested pandemic shutdowns and the crowds of unmasked hikers and beachgoers speaking out again?

It's a good question that defies a simple answer. Was it the surprising escalation of protests? The protesters' cause? Or the fact that it would come off as inexcusably tone-deaf to scold people about proper social distancing when they worry that they or their loved ones may be the next victims of a police shooting?

It was somewhat mollifying that the images from Los Angeles and other cities showed most protesters wearing face coverings—a thin line of defense against infection, but better than nothing. This suggests that protesters understood the risk involved, calculating that staying inside and safe from the virus was ultimately more dangerous to their lives.

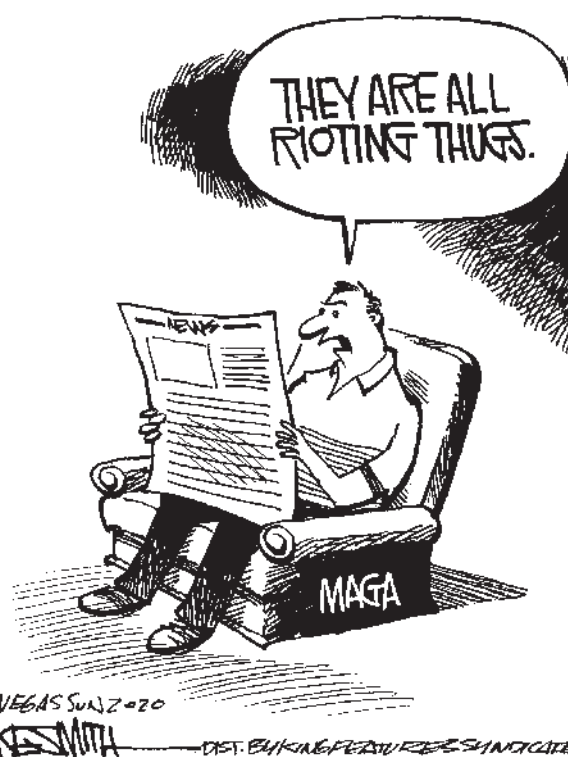
That's fundamentally different from the decision made by protesters who defied social distancing rules and mask guidance while demanding that pandemic restrictions be lifted. Those were deliberate moves to demonstrate their (incorrect) belief that COVID-19 wasn't much of a threat and that authorities were needlessly crushing businesses and the economy.

The reality is that large gatherings of people, regardless of their ideological bent or cause, jeopardize the success that has come out of months of shared sacrifice to slow the spread of the coronavirus and protect those most vulnerable, including black Americans who are dying of COVID-19 at a higher rate than most anyone else. The U.S. might seem to have overcome the virus because businesses have started reopening. But while the pandemic is waning in some parts of the country that were exposed early, COVID-19 cases are climbing in others. And public health officials warn that the protests may spark another wave of infections. If that's the case, we will know in about a week.

It may be too late to stop spikes from past protests, but not too late to curb future protest-driven transmission. Protesters should heed calls to get tested after participating in demonstrations and follow the recommendations for isolation if they have been exposed. Law enforcement officials also must examine their own tactics, including the shocking lack of masks worn by police officers working protest detail. While they're at it, they need to reconsider using tear gas and other weapons that cause people to sneeze and cough out respiratory droplets and to observe proper social distancing measures while arresting protesters.

(c)2020 Los Angeles Times

WHEN PROTESTERS
ARE VIOLENT



LAS VEGAS SUN 7-20-20
MIKE SMITH

ART BY KING FERRERES SHINCARE/NAAS

WHEN COPS ARE
VIOLENT



A crisis that teaches

The COVID-19 crisis has created unimaginable hardships for individuals, families, small businesses and international behemoths. Crisis knows no boundaries in how it impacts people and their lives.

At universities, ancillary activities were appropriately shed in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) was poised to begin the national basketball tournament, the focus of tens of millions of people yearly and the source of \$1 billion in revenue (without which there is no NCAA). The enterprise came to a breathtakingly screeching halt. Clubs and organizations on campuses scuttled ceremonies as the year drew to a close. Scholarly meetings were canceled. Nonessential university travel was practically stopped. Graduation ceremonies went virtual. But, one thing remained constant—students attended class, principally online, and hopefully teaching and learning occurred.

Teaching was essentially all that remained at the university. And maybe that's as it should be. After all the purpose of any university is to help people change the way they think. For example, a student who wants to be an engineer comes to the university and, in effect, says, "I want to be an engineer, but I don't know how to think like one. Will you help me learn to think like an engineer?" The implied contract between the university and the student is that the institution will assist the student in the process of transformation. The student has the opportunity to gain skills, critical thinking ability, knowledge, insight and attributes that are keys to vocational success and intellectual fulfillment. This is the teaching/learning process. The backbreaking economic impact that swelled unemployment rates to near-record levels and challenged individuals and families in ways unimaginable only a few months ago did not diminish the commitment to teaching.

Teaching is about leadership. Teaching and leadership require the ability to cast a vision and pursue it. Little else matters. Contemporary society has worn out the idea of vision, believing anyone who can conjure up an image of the future is deemed a visionary. I think not. Vision casting, to have meaning and value, demands that vision has a motivating purpose. Whether a student and teacher communicate face-to-face or digitally, good teaching retains the acts of leadership and vision casting. The modality of the activity is important, but, for the focused teacher and curious student, effectiveness resides outside modality.

Victor Frankel in *Man's Search for Meaning* captures the

By **WALTER V. WENDLER**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Walter V. Wendler is president of West Texas A&M University. His weekly columns are available at <http://walterwendler.com/>.



essence of both vision and teaching in the tension that exists between the two: "What man actually needs is not a tensionless state but rather the striving and struggling for some goal worthy of him. What he needs is not the discharge of tension at any cost, but the call of the potential meaning waiting to be fulfilled by him." In comparing Frankel's experience as a survivor of Theresienstadt and that of the student in freshman English, any perceived trivialization is unintended. Rather, the importance of finding value in experience as the way to direct the future as a significant part of both teaching and leadership which leads to learning. Possibly, the tension of change may intensify result, purpose and power. That choice rests with the teacher, the learner and the institution that bonds the two.

Faculty speak with passion about what they expect from students: the ability to construct a sentence; a concept of arithmetic that allows the application of basic mathematical laws and algebraic relationships; an ability to think clearly about an idea or concept and analyze it; and a sense of energy about learning, online or face-to-face. Students and their exercise of free will are not necessarily negatively impacted by how ideas and concepts are presented. Modality has little lasting impact on a dedicated teacher and student. Modality is a means to an end.

When teaching is ignited by human passion, it empowers people to change the way they think, to have a positive impact on those around them and to see how something simple can be profound in its application. No virus, no change of modality, no vacation from sport, club or extra-curricular activity can change that. In healthy universities populated by healthy people, the intensity and value of the act of teaching and learning can grow rather than dissipate during a crisis.

A crisis will intensify those things most important. A crisis can teach if we allow it.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A nightmare from hell



Archive photo shows Japanese ships burning in the Tanapag Harbor on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This afternoon, 76 years ago, Rear Adm. Marc Mitscher, commander of Fast Carrier Task Force 58, initiated the campaign to capture Saipan, Tinian and Guam: Operation Forager. The attack had been scheduled for early on the morning of June 12, 1944, but when a search plane from Tinian's Hagoi airfield spotted the fleet some 200 miles east of Saipan and Tinian, Mitscher urged Adm. Nimitz to allow him to begin operations immediately. With permission granted, Mitscher began launching aircraft for attacks on Pagan, Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam. The horror of war began.

This was not Mitscher's first visit to the Marianas. He had conducted the initial raid against Saipan, Tinian and Guam on Feb. 22-23, when Adm. Spruance, commander, 5th Fleet, sent him to check out the status of Japanese defenses. Then, in mid-April, Adm. Nimitz requested support from the 7th Air Force in Guadalcanal and Eniwetok to have their long-range B-24 Liberators conduct a photo-reconnaissance missions in the Marianas for planning purposes. The last of the recon missions was flown on June 1, giving Spruance's planners up-to-date photos they could study aboard ship while cruising from Majuro in the

Marshall Islands to the Marianas.

Mitscher's mission this time was to establish air superiority over the Mariana Islands before Adm. Spruance arrived with the battle fleet. The 15 aircraft carriers in the fast carrier fleet were divided into four task forces, each with individually assigned targets on islands as far north as Chichi Jima, to Iwo Jima, and south to Pohnpei, Palau and Truk to prevent their interference with the invasion. The civilians in the Marianas were accustomed to the sights and sounds of Japanese aircraft operating from Japanese airfields at As Lito on Saipan, Hagoi on Tinian, Sinapalo on Rota, and Orote in Guam. But they were surprised when hundreds of American F6F Hellcats came screaming in from the east shortly after lunch, targeting airfields and shooting down Japanese aircraft that took to the air. Many civilians would have immediately remembered the terror of the February raid, grabbing their children and elderly and making a dash for hideouts they had prepared during the ensuing three months. Those who had not established a refuge had no place to hide, dodging bombs and bullets as they scrambled helter-skelter for their lives.

The first locals to face the wrath of Mitscher's naval aviators were those working at the airfields, fueling and arming Japanese fighter aircraft. Although the American pilots were well aware of the large civilian populations on Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam, their bullets were impartial as they bombed and strafed the airfields. Japanese military personnel, including Okinawan-Japanese Imperial Army and Navy soldiers and sailors, as well as Korean, Chamorro and Carolinian workers, tasted American steel and died.

Next came port facilities at Tanapag Harbor, Saipan; Sanhalom Bay, Tinian; and San Luis de Apra, Guam. Ships at anchor were easy targets for the well-trained American torpedo bombers. After airfield and port facilities, Mitscher's flyboys attacked communication centers, knocking down radio antennae and cutting communications with Tokyo. However, Gen. Saito, commander of all Japanese Imperial Army Forces on Saipan, and Adm. Nagumo, commander of all Japanese Imperial Navy forces on Saipan, had already sent messages to their respective commanders, who had then ordered Adm. Ozawa, commander

By **DON FARRELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Don A. Farrell is a historian and has written extensively about the history of the Commonwealth, with his books used as textbooks in the Public School System.



Archive photo shows the Pagan strike.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of the Japanese 1st Mobile Fleet anchored in Tawi-Tawi, southern Philippines, to make ready to meet the American navy in the Marianas, if in fact this was the prelude to an invasion.

Finally, Mitscher's Hellcats hit the sugar refineries at Chalan Kanoa, Sanhalom Bay, and Sasanhaya Bay and their railroad terminals. Roads were potholed, stopping all ground transportation. Pilots who had ammunition remaining were authorized to hit "targets of opportunity." Their machine guns strafed Garapan, Chalan Kanoa, Tinian Town, Tatachog, Sinapalo, Agat, Sumay, and Piti.

As the sun set and the American aircraft returned to their ships, civilians and Japanese military personnel alike prayed that June 11 was only a repeat of the February raid. They recognized the grim face of reality when the Hellcats returned at dawn on June 12. Once again, the Hellcats searched out Japanese aircraft, on the ground and in the air. By noon they ran out of targets. Air superiority had been established.

A convoy of twelve 'Marus' in Tanapag Harbor had skedaddled for their home ports on the evening of June 11, but were caught by Adm. Harrill's task group 58.4 on the 12th some 160 miles NNW of Saipan and destroyed, along with a torpedo boat and three subchasers. They were also responsible for catching the naval auxiliary *Bokuyo Maru* (2,726 tons) and beaching the *Keiyo Maru* (6,441 tons) at Tanapag. Adm. Nimitz's submarine net set around the Marianas were prepared for any Japanese ships that might try to reinforce the Marianas.

Much to Gen. Saito's dismay, America's new battlefleet, constructed in American shipyards in the two and one-half years since Pearl Harbor, arrived in the Marianas on the 12th. From the target maps that had been created at Pearl Harbor and refined aboard ship during the cruise to the Marianas, the systematic bombardment of Japanese defensive positions began. The young, untested crews of the new ships were not accurate. But when thousands of shells exploded all along the western shorelines of Saipan, Tinian and Guam, many civilians and military personnel were killed or wounded.

Then came the V Amphibious Corps. The 2nd and 4th Marine Divisions and the 27th Army Infantry Division arrived off Saipan and the 3rd Marine Division and the 1st Provisional Marine Brigade off Guam—127,000 troops in all, in the afternoon of the 12th. They were held well offshore, out of harm's way, for the time being. There was no doubt now, in anyone's mind, that the invasion of the Marianas was close at hand. Those civilians who had foreseen this day and made the effort to stash food, medicine and clothing in caves or rancheros would survive the days, weeks and years ahead much better than those who had not. Ultimately however, the amphibious invasion of the Marianas would be a nightmare from hell that all Chamorros and Carolinians in Marianas who survived the war would remember the rest of their lives, whether they wanted to or not.

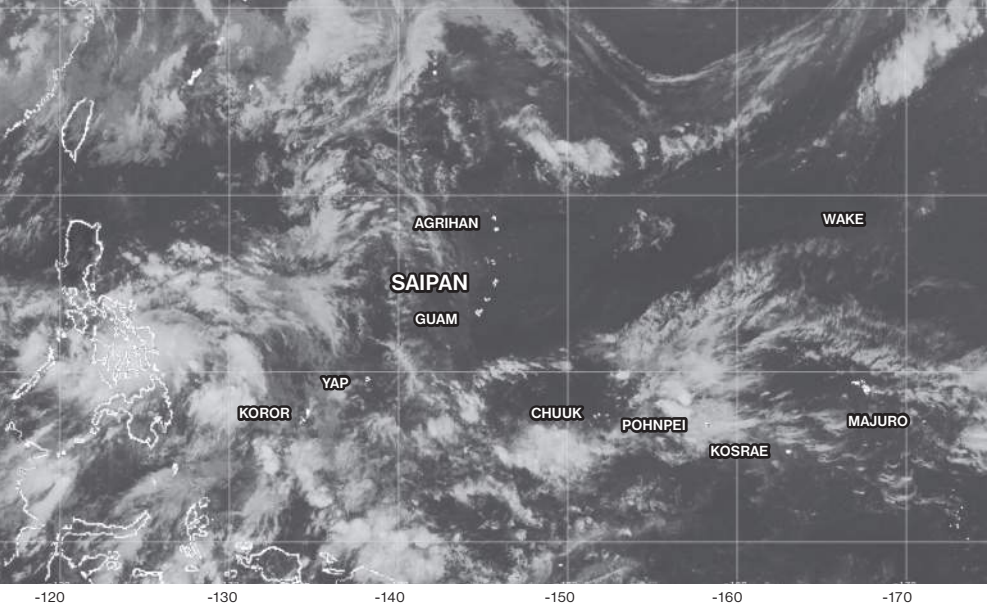


Archive photo shows the Hagoi Airfield on Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Isolated thunderstorms for Guam and Rota.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:56 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with patchy showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Buoys show seas between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

- able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:34 AM	11:36 PM
Friday	-	11:25 AM	-
Saturday	-	12:15 AM	12:13 PM
Sunday	-	12:51 AM	1:00 PM
Monday	-	1:26 AM	1:46 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 70°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Windy	85° / 74°	
London	Showers	64° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	88° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
New York	Thunderstorms	82° / 68°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°	
Paris	Showers	72° / 59°	
Busan	Showers	77° / 70°	
Rome	Thunderstorms	72° / 57°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	87° / 64°	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	90° / 70°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	85° / 68°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.99	
6:35 AM	LOW TIDE	1.37	
10:33 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69	
6:03 PM	LOW TIDE	0.17	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Back in 2014, owner and founder Lena Ruiz of online shop Lena’s Creations was going through a tough time balancing school, taking care of her parents, and trying to pursue her passion in making handmade jewelry. She finally found balance in 2017 when she almost lost both of her parents due to health conditions.

“As a young adult I didn’t get a chance to experience young adulthood. With almost losing both my parents in the same year, I had no choice but to mature faster and take on responsibilities as the youngest child in the family. I realized I needed to hustle to make ends meet and that is why I decided to leave my four-year housekeeping job to take care of my parents and live out my dream as Lena’s Creations,” Ruiz said.

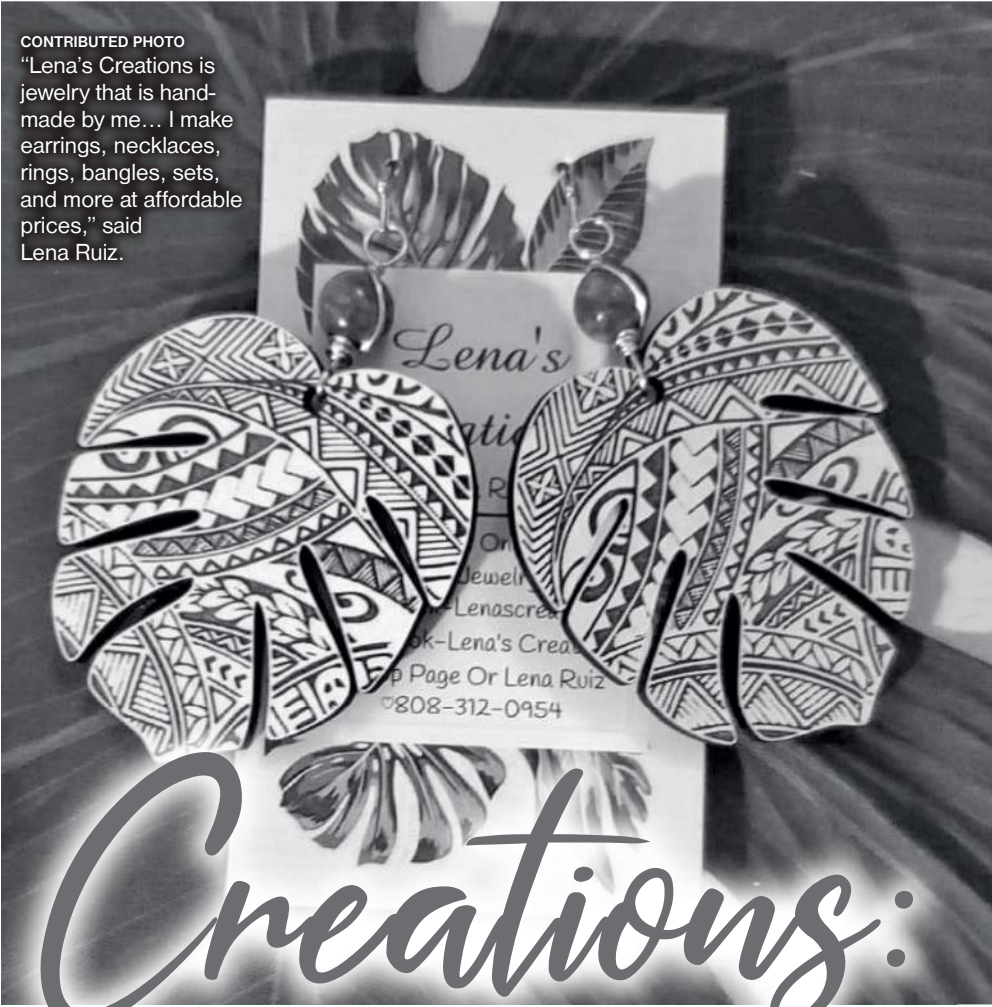
“Lena’s Creations is jewelry that is handmade by me... I make earrings, necklaces, rings, bangles, sets, and more at affordable prices... I offer one-of-a-kind jewelry with good quality and everything from wire wrapping, looping, and hammering I do all by myself. I put a lot of love into my designs and I take pride in what I do. For me, it’s not just a job, it’s my passion and God has given me such a great gift and it is my chance to show this generation what He has given me,” Ruiz added.

Lena’s Creations is based in Oahu, Hawaii and through



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Lena’s Creations
owner and founder
Lena Ruiz.

Lena’s



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
“Lena’s Creations is jewelry that is hand-made by me... I make earrings, necklaces, rings, bangles, sets, and more at affordable prices,” said Lena Ruiz.

Creations:

Creating from the heart

ations,” she added. While nurturing and making known her business by going on Facebook Live, Ruiz also gets to help other women in the process. “In every live show, I always showcase something new...Many of my customers told me that I have been a huge inspiration to them and I take pride in that, to know that women who are older than me find me as an inspiration makes me feel I am doing more than just selling jewelry. I’m helping others start their business just by having them watch my progress and how I run things on my own,” she said. “One of my future plans is to open a shop where I can showcase all my beautiful jewelry and one day expand around the globe...and hopefully to visit Saipan, a huge opportunity for me to promote more of my products and I would definitely love to meet customers from there,” she added. For more information, call (808) 312-0954 or follow on Facebook Group Page: Lena’s Creations, Instagram: lenascreations, and email: lenascreationshi@gmail.com.

Trump admin opposes extending enhanced unemployment benefit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration opposes a Democratic proposal to extend a \$600 per week federal unemployment benefit approved in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia said Tuesday.

The \$600 payment, which is in addition to normal unemployment benefits, “was the right thing to do,” Scalia said, but is no longer needed as the economy begins to recover.

The money, included in a government relief package enacted in late March, has helped millions of workers stay in their homes and pay bills even as the unemployment rate surged to its highest levels since World War II.

The payments are set to expire July 31, and Democrats have

pushed a plan that would extend the enhanced benefit through January. The Democratic-led House approved the proposal last month, but it is considered unlikely to advance in the Republican-controlled Senate.

Scalia pointed to an unexpectedly rosy jobs report released last Friday. By the end of July, “we expect the economy to be deep into the process of reopening, with shutdown orders ended and millions of Americans freed to return to work,” he told the Senate Finance Committee.

Unemployment benefits will still be needed in August and beyond, “but the circumstances that originally called for the \$600 plus-up will have changed,” Scalia said. “Policy will need to change as well.”

main goal is interpret my jewelry with what I like the most and where I come from. My signature designs are tiare flowers and monstera leaves which are my two favorites and symbolize my character and personality.... Lately, I have been bringing in wood cutouts and engraved Polynesian tribal designs which everyone loves the most. I know that all of my ‘poly’ customers will love to show off their culture with a twist through Lena’s Cre-

Democrats challenged that view, saying the unemployment rate is likely to remain at historically high levels through the summer at least.

Friday’s jobs report showed that unemployment dropped unexpectedly in May to 13.3% as reopened businesses began recalling millions of workers faster than economists had predicted, but the jobless rate is still on par with what the nation witnessed during the Great Depression.

Watching President Donald Trump “celebrate victory” Friday as the jobs report was released “is yet another sign that he doesn’t understand what it’s like for people born without a real estate portfolio,” said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, the panel’s top Democrat.

IBM quits facial recognition, joins call for police reforms

IBM is getting out of the facial recognition business, saying it’s concerned about how the technology can be used for mass surveillance and racial profiling.

Ongoing protests responding to the death of George Floyd have sparked a broader reckoning over racial injustice and a closer look at the use of police technology to track demonstrators and monitor American neighborhoods.

IBM is one of several big tech firms that had earlier sought to improve the accuracy of their face-scanning software after research found racial and gender disparities. But its new CEO is now questioning whether it should be

used by police at all.

“We believe now is the time to begin a national dialogue on whether and how facial recognition technology should be employed by domestic law enforcement agencies,” wrote CEO Arvind Krishna in a letter sent Monday to U.S. lawmakers.

IBM’s decision to stop building and selling facial recognition software is unlikely to affect its bottom line, since the tech giant is increasingly focused on cloud computing while an array of lesser-known firms have cornered the market for government facial recognition contracts.

“But the symbolic nature of this is important,” said Mutale Nkonde, a research fellow at

Harvard and Stanford universities who directs the nonprofit AI For the People.

Nkonde said IBM shutting down a business “under the guise of advancing anti-racist business practices” shows that it can be done and makes it “socially unacceptable for companies who tweet Black Lives Matter to do so while contracting with the police.”

Krishna’s letter was addressed to a group of Democrats who have been working on police reform legislation in Congress fueled by the mass protests over Floyd’s death. The sweeping reform package could include restrictions on police use of facial recognition. (AP)



LEADING INDICATORS		
DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
27,272.30	3,207.18	9,953.75
-300.14	-25.21	+29.01
1.09%	0.78%	0.29%

EXCHANGE RATES		
In U.S. dollar terms	Australian Dollar	1.4352
	British Pound	0.7849
	Canadian Dollar	1.3398
	Chinese Yuan	6.9630
	Euro	0.8816
	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7498
	Indian Rupee	74.9910
	Japanese Yen	107.4980
	Malaysian Ringgit	4.2209
	New Zealand Dollar	1.5317
	Philippine Peso	48.9282
	Russian Ruble	67.5673
	Singapore Dollar	1.3873
	South Korean Won	1166.72
	Swiss Franc	0.9502
	Taiwan Dollar	29.1255
	Thailand Baht	31.1620

Nation

‘He is going to change the world’: Funeral held for Floyd

HOUSTON (AP)—George Floyd was fondly remembered Tuesday as “Big Floyd”—a father and brother, athlete and neighborhood mentor, and now a catalyst for change—at a funeral for the black man whose death has sparked a global reckoning over police brutality and racial prejudice.

More than 500 mourners wearing masks against the coronavirus packed a Houston church a little more than two weeks after Floyd was pinned to the pavement by a white Minneapolis police officer who put a knee on his neck for what prosecutors said was 8 minutes and 46 seconds.

Cellphone video of the encounter, including Floyd’s pleas of “I can’t breathe,” ignited protests and scattered violence across the U.S. and around the world, turning the 46-year-old Floyd—a man who in life was little known beyond the public housing project where he was raised in Houston’s Third Ward—into a worldwide symbol of injustice.

“Third Ward, Cuney Homes, that’s where he was born at,” Floyd’s brother, Rodney, told mourners at the Fountain of Praise church. “But everybody is going to remember him around the world. He is going to change the world.”

The funeral capped six days of mourning for Floyd in three cities: Raeford, North Carolina, near where he was born; Houston, where he grew up; and Minneapolis, where he died. The memorials have drawn the families of other black victims whose names have become familiar in the debate over race and justice—

among them, Eric Garner, Michael Brown, Ahmaud Arbery and Trayvon Martin.

After the service, Floyd’s golden casket was taken by hearse to the cemetery in the Houston suburb of Pearland to be entombed next to his mother, for whom he cried out as he lay dying. A mile from the graveyard, the casket was transferred to a glass-sided carriage drawn by a pair of white horses. A brass band played as his casket was taken inside the mausoleum.

Hundreds of people, some chanting, “Say his name, George Floyd,” gathered along the procession route and outside the cemetery entrance in the mid-90s heat.

“I don’t want to see any black man, any man, but most definitely not a black man sitting on the ground in the hands of bad police,” said Marcus Brooks, 47, who set up a tent with other graduates of Jack Yates High School, Floyd’s alma mater.

In the past two weeks, amid the furor over Floyd’s death, sweeping and previously unthinkable things have taken place: Confederate statues have been toppled, and many cities are debating overhauling, dismantling or cutting funding for police departments. Authorities in some places have barred police from using chokeholds or are otherwise rethinking policies on the use of force.

Dozens of Floyd’s family members, most dressed in white, took part in the four-hour service. Grammy-winning singer Ne-Yo was among those who sang.

The mourners included actors Jamie Foxx and Channing



LaTonya Floyd speaks during the funeral service for her brother George Floyd at The Fountain of Praise church Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in Houston. AP

Tatum, J.J. Watt of the NFL’s Houston Texans, rapper Trae tha Truth, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who brought the crowd to its feet when he announced he will sign an executive order banning chokeholds in the city.

“I know you have a lot of questions that no child should have to ask, questions that too many black children have had to ask for generations: Why? Why is Daddy gone?” former Vice President Joe Biden, the Democratic presidential candidate, said, addressing Floyd’s 6-year-old daughter in a video eulogy played at the service. “Now is the time

for racial justice. That’s the answer we must give to our children when they ask why.”

Biden made no mention of his opponent in November. But other speakers took swipes at President Donald Trump, who has ignored demands to address racial bias and has called on authorities to crack down hard on lawlessness.

“The president talks about bringing in the military, but he did not say one word about 8 minutes and 46 seconds of police murder of George Floyd,” said the Rev. Al Sharpton, the civil rights activist. “He challenged China on human rights. But what about the human right of George Floyd?”

Most of the pews were full, with relatively little space between people.

“So much for social distanc-

ing today,” the Rev. Remus Wright told mourners, gently but firmly instructing those attending to wear face masks.

Facing electoral headwinds, Trump brings back 2016 team

NEW YORK (AP)—As anyone who has ever heard him speak knows, President Donald Trump loves to relive 2016.

He recycles old attack lines once aimed at Hillary Clinton. He recounts the drama of election night, complete with impersonations of stunned news anchors putting state after state (Pennsylvania! Wisconsin!) in the Republican’s column.

And at other times, in private calls from the White House residence, he reminisces about the camaraderie of those days, turning nostalgic as he remembers being surrounded by a rag-tag team of campaign staffers as his private plane flew from one distant city to another.

Now, Trump is getting the band back together again.

The president in recent days has signed off on hiring a number of his 2016 veterans for his 2020 campaign, a reenlistment of loyalists that follows the return of other members of his original team to the West Wing. A creature of habit who demands loyalty and trusts few, Trump has moved to recreate the magic of his original team five months before he faces voters again.

But 2020 is not 2016. And Trump’s advisers are increas-

ingly worried about the state of the campaign as the president faces multiple crises, from the health and economic fallout of the coronavirus pandemic to the mass protests that have swept across the nation.

“It’s fantastic to have the 2016 group back together, but the facts are the facts. He barely won and he has done nothing at all to grow out his support,” said Sam Nunberg, who advised Trump early in his first campaign.

“He can’t win on nostalgia. It’s not the same race. This is not going to be about slogans or themes, it’s going to be about what you did for me and why I should reelect you based on your record,” said Nunberg, an informal adviser who will not be rejoining the campaign. “He can’t just fight the last war. It’s time to adapt or die.”

The reinforcements are arriving as Trump comes to terms with the idea that he can’t run the type of campaign he had planned for years — one that looked feasible as recently as January, according to three campaign and White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Video shows prison guard mocking George Floyd killing

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—A corrections officer who participated in a counterprotest to a Black Lives Matter demonstration in New Jersey in which people reenacted the death of George Floyd was suspended after the video was widely shared on social media.

In the video, protesters march along a street Monday in Franklin Township, Gloucester County, chanting “George Floyd!” and “Black Lives Matter!” The video shows they are being escorted by local police.

They pass a private property filled with firewood for sale. Video filmed by someone marching shows a man kneeling on the neck of another man shouting unintelligibly back at protesters. Protesters shout

back.

Two more men are standing nearby and one of them is filming on a cellphone. The group is standing on the roadside in front of a pickup truck outfitted with an American flag and a Trump banner. Several others are nearby. An “All Lives Matter” sign is also hanging.

Another truck shows the “thin blue line” flag, meant to show support for law enforcement workers.

The video has garnered tens of thousands of views and shares on social media.

Floyd, a black man, was pinned to the pavement May 25 by a white Minneapolis police officer who put his knee on Floyd’s neck for several minutes, even after Floyd stopped responding. Protests have

been held in cities and towns around the world calling for an end to police brutality and systemic racism.

The New Jersey Department of Corrections put out a statement Tuesday afternoon that said they were made aware that one of its officers participated in the filming of a “hateful and disappointing video that mocked the killing of George Floyd.”

“The individual has been suspended from their post and banned from NJDOC facilities pending a thorough and expedited investigation,” the statement said.

It’s unknown which of the people in the video works for the Department.

Another person in the video is a FedEx employee, who has since been suspended, a

company spokesman told The Courier Post.

A statement from Police Chief Brian Zimmer and Mayor John Bruno said they were “appalled and saddened by the revolting actions of certain individuals.”

Gov. Phil Murphy condemned the stunt Tuesday night on Twitter, saying the state won’t “let the actions of a few distract from our progress toward dismantling systemic racism.”

“Mocking George Floyd’s murder in effort to belittle the calls for justice from our Black and Brown communities is repugnant,” Murphy tweeted.

NBC10 reported they called multiple phone numbers listed for the property where the counterprotesters were, but has not received a response.

Asia

S. China Sea disputes again putting spotlight on Beijing

BEIJING (AP)—A look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple territorial disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons. The waters are a major shipping route for global commerce and are rich in fish and possible oil and gas reserves.

US-PHILIPPINE PACT STANDS

The Philippines has decided not to suspend a defense pact with the U.S., avoiding a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia.

Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. said Tuesday that the Philippines is delaying its decision to abrogate the Visiting Forces Agreement by at least six months.

The alliance is seen as having deterred aggressive Chinese actions in the disputed South China Sea, including possible construction of structures in Scarborough Shoal, a disputed fishing area off the northwestern Philippines that China effectively seized after a tense standoff in 2012.

CAMBODIA SAYS BASE OPEN TO ALL

Cambodia's leader says China has not been given exclusive rights to use a naval base on the country's southern coast, and that warships from all nations, including the United States, are welcome to dock there.

Prime Minister Hun Sen last week repeated denials that the Ream naval base on the Gulf of Thailand had been handed over to close ally and financial benefactor China for 30 years. Such a move would allow the Chinese navy to post military personnel, store weapons and berth warships.

Many analysts believe basing rights in Cambodia would extend Beijing's strategic military profile considerably and tilt the regional balance of power in a manner that would pressure adjacent countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations whose

security concerns traditionally have been aligned more closely with the United States.

US REJECTS CHINA MARITIME CLAIMS

The U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations has fired back at Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Ambassador Kelly Craft's note weighs in on Malaysia's bid to reject China-imposed limits on its continental shelf allowing it rights to resources.

"The United States rejects these maritime claims as inconsistent with international law as reflected in the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention," Craft's note said.

China in December issued a rejection of Malaysia's petition to extend its continental shelf. Beijing ignored a 2016 ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague that invalidated most of China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea.

The U.S. does not officially take a stand on sovereignty issues in the area, but maintains its military has the right to fly, sail and operate in all areas open to international navigation.

INDIA-AUSTRALIA TO STRENGTHEN TIES

India and Australia are strengthening defense ties and cooperation on Indo-Pacific maritime issues, at a time when both countries are facing increased tensions with China.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart, Scott Morrison, on Thursday agreed to give each other access to their military bases. India accuses China of starting the latest standoff along their undefined border in the Himalayas.

China and Australia are at loggerheads over trade, China's territorial ambitions in the South China Sea, and most recently, Australia's push for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic and China's response to it.

Hundreds march in HK as leader urges stability

HONG KONG (AP)—Hundreds of people marched in Hong Kong's streets on Tuesday night to mark a year since the start of anti-government protests, as the leader of the semi-autonomous Chinese city called for peace and stability.

"Everyone has to learn their lesson, including the Hong Kong government," Carrie Lam told reporters. "Hong Kong cannot bear that kind of chaos, and the people of Hong Kong want a stable and peaceful environment to be able to live and work here happily."

Lam did not elaborate on what lessons should be learned.

Protesters rallied in a square in Hong Kong's central district before marching on nearby streets, shouting slogans including "Hong Kong independence, the only way out" and "Fight to the end."

They marched despite police warnings that force could be used to disperse participants and that they faced up to five years in prison. Riot police one group of protesters, deploying pepper spray and firing pepper balls and tackling some to the ground.

Police said 53 people had been arrested as of early Wednesday for unlawful assembly, disorderly conduct and other charges. They said protesters blocked roads repeatedly and build barricades with traffic cones and other objects. Some protesters were also stopped and searched by police.

"Lawful protests are always respected but unlawful acts are to be rejected. Please stop breaking the law," police said in a tweet.

Tuesday was the one-year anniversary of a huge march through central Hong Kong that grew into a pro-

democracy movement that saw protesters break into the legislative building and take to the streets every weekend for months.

"The mass protest on 9 June last year has been etched in the collective memory of Hongkongers," the Civil Human Rights Front, which organized the event, wrote in a Facebook post on Tuesday. "It also marks the beginning of our togetherness in defending our beloved city."

Protesters also gathered in shopping malls to mark the anniversary at lunchtime, holding up signs and banners reading "Liberate Hong Kong" and singing protest songs.

The June 9, 2019, march was in opposition to a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed people in the former British colony, which has its own legal system, to be sent to mainland China to face trial.

World



A family peers from the window of their home as they wait to receive boxes of free food, during a lockdown to curb the spread of the new coronavirus, in Bogota, Colombia, Monday, May 4, 2020. **AP**

UN chief urges fast action to avoid 'global food emergency'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for immediate action Tuesday to avoid a "global food emergency," saying more than 820 million people are hungry, some 144 million children under 5-years-old are stunted, and the COVID-19 pandemic is making things worse.

He said there is more than enough food to feed the world's 7.8 billion people but "our food systems are failing."

The U.N. chief launched a policy briefing on the Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition Tuesday which said before the pandemic more than 820 million people were "chronically food insecure," with 135 million at crisis levels or worse.

"That number could nearly double before the end of the year due to the impacts of COVID-19," the briefing said.

And Guterres said some 49 million extra people may fall into extreme poverty due to the pandemic and its impact.

Noting forecasts of a global economic downturn this year,

he warned that every percentage point drop in global GDP means an additional 700,000 stunted children.

According to the briefing, measures to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting global food supply chains.

"Border restrictions and lock-downs are, for example, slowing harvests in some parts of the world, leaving millions of seasonal workers without livelihoods, while also constraining transport of food to markets," the U.N. briefing said.

It pointed to the forced closure of meat processing plants and food markets in many locations because of serious COVID-19 outbreaks.

Agnes Kalibata, the U.N. special envoy to a Food Systems Summit scheduled in 2021, said "from the U.S. to India, produce is rotting in the fields as lock-downs keep people from harvesting and planting crops."

"That means less income for desperately hungry people to buy food and less food available, at higher prices," she said

in a statement. "And this is happening across the world."

Kalibata also said millions of liters of milk are being dumped in the United Kingdom for lack of buyers "while in Colombia families hang red flags outside their windows to indicate they are hungry."

The briefing said high levels of unemployment, loss of income, and rising food costs are also making access to food difficult.

To address food security during the pandemic, Guterres said food and nutrition services must be designated as essential, and food workers must be protected.

He said countries must ensure access for the most vulnerable "to safe, nutritious foods, particularly for young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, older people and other at-risk groups."

And he urged investment in food systems that better address the needs of food producers and workers and provide "more inclusive access to healthy and nutritious food so we can eradicate hunger."

Brazil obeys court order to resume providing full virus data

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—A Brazilian Supreme Court justice ordered the government of President Jair Bolsonaro to resume publication of full COVID-19 data, including the cumulative death toll, following allegations the government was trying to hide the severity of the pandemic in Latin America's biggest country.

The government complied with the decision Tuesday afternoon.

Justice Alexandre de Moraes said late Monday that the government is obliged to provide necessary information to Brazilian citizens, days after

the Health Ministry scrubbed the cumulative death toll from the new coronavirus from its website. De Moraes said in his decision that the gravity of the pandemic, which has killed more than 38,400 Brazilians, requires transparency from the government as the country shapes policies to curb the virus.

Brazil's health ministry stopped publishing the number of total COVID-19 deaths and confirmed coronavirus cases on Friday.

The restriction on the release of data, combined with its announcement after eve-

ning news programs had ended, generated widespread criticism. Gilmar Mendes, another Supreme Court justice, said Saturday that manipulation of data is a tactic of authoritarian regimes and that hiding the numbers wouldn't exempt the government from responsibility for the pandemic's heavy toll in Brazil.

Facing intense criticism, a top Health Ministry official told reporters Monday night that the ministry would restore the cumulative death toll to its website, but with changes to the methodology for how daily deaths are tallied.

Environment

REPORT

Deforestation, linked to pandemics, increased in 2019

By BENJAMIN J. HULAC
CQ-ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON—Deforestation of tropical old-growth forests increased last year, according to new satellite data unveiled Tuesday, wiping out acreage roughly the size of Switzerland in a period when experts are raising alarms about the transmission of a variety of diseases, including the novel coronavirus, that jump between animals and humans.

Earth in 2019 lost 9.3 million acres of primary tropical forests—swathes of pristine ecosystems that humans had left largely untouched. Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia saw the largest losses, while Bolivia and Australia experienced record tree losses for those countries due to wildfires.

The groups that released the figures, Global Forest Watch and World Resources Institute, said the losses worldwide last year were the

third-highest annual total for primary forests this century.

“We seem to be going in the wrong direction,” Frances Seymour, distinguished senior fellow at WRI, told reporters. “The 2019 data corroborates what we already know. If governments put into place good policies and enforce the law, forest loss goes down,” Seymour said.

Deforestation, the destruction of animal habitats and wildlife trafficking are linked with the spread of zoonotic diseases, including the novel coronavirus, which can transmit between humans and animals.

While the origin of COVID-19, which has killed more than 370,000 globally and more than 100,000 in the U.S., is uncertain, researchers have found genetic similarities between it and viruses found in bats sold at markets that offer live

animals in China, though the exact point of the outbreak is unclear.

Other high-profile zoonotic infectious diseases include SARS, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and the Ebola virus, all of which likely jumped from wildlife to humans after finding hosts, such as primates or camels.

Environmental groups joined an effort in late April to stop the commercial shipping and sale of wild animals for human consumption.

“When you look at the conditions that led to the spread of COVID-19, and the strong link to wildlife species that are highly sought-after in open markets, it’s a clear sign we need to take a hard look at our global wildlife trade, specially the illegal trade,” Alejandra Goyenechea, senior international counsel for Defenders of Wildlife, said at the time.

Rep. Daniel Lipinski, D-Ill., introduced legislation March 2 to curb illegal wildlife trafficking and extend the life of a federal wildlife trafficking task force.

Mikaela Weisse, Global Forest Watch Project Manager at WRI, said she has heard anecdotes of a spike in forest destruction during the COVID-19 outbreak.

“We’ve been getting all these stories from partners on the ground about instances where they are seeing increased illegal activity because of perhaps the lower law enforcement or just people who are taking advantage of the pandemic to actually continue incursions on indigenous lands or protected areas,” Weisse said.

Pulling data from the University of Maryland, Google, the U.S. Geological Survey and NASA,

Global Forest Watch—established in 1997—tracks forest growth and loss, providing updates weekly and annual reports.

Weisse said she and her colleagues were trying to corroborate and “link” those anecdotes with satellite data.

Brazil accounted for one-third of all primary forest loss last year. Because of massive bushfires, compounded by drought, Australia saw a 560% increase in lost tree cover between 2018 and 2019.

“A sixfold increase,” said Rod Taylor, an Australian who heads Global Forest Program.

“My home country,” he said, “suffered through what is being called the devastating Black Summer Bushfires last year,” adding that “2019 was Australia’s worst year on record.”

Aerial view of an area burned and cleared for farming in Mato Grosso, southern Brazil, on Jan. 6, 2009.

MARTINWENDLER/BALANCE/PHOTOSHOT/ZUMAPRESS/TNS

COVID-19 offers lesson on risk of ignoring climate change

By MERCURY NEWS & EAST BAY TIMES
EDITORIAL BOARDS
THE MERCURY NEWS

The coronavirus offers important lessons on the need to reduce the threat of climate change.

For starters, we’ve learned there is a heavy price to be paid for ignoring repeated warnings from scientists with expertise in their field of study.

Researchers at the Global Carbon Project on Tuesday published a report revealing that the Earth can expect a drop of 7% in carbon dioxide emissions this year as a result of the pandemic. It’s the largest decrease in at least 75 years. That’s the good news. But the plunge in carbon emissions shouldn’t be perceived as a silver lining. The decline is temporary. At some

point, business will resume and people will head back to work. The 7% drop will become a thing of the past.

Here’s the challenge. The authors of the study, in an op-ed for Scientific American magazine, noted that the U.N. Environment program said emissions needed to drop 7.6% every year until 2030 for the global temperature increase to stay below the safer limit of 1.5 degrees C.

It’s a grim reminder that we shouldn’t wait another day to begin implementing innovative approaches to transportation and industrial challenges. Any new stimulus packages should seek ways of spurring clean energy programs and reducing emissions from cars and trucks. And climate change should be a front-burner

issue in campaign debates this fall for elections at every level of government. The United States remains the only country to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, in which nearly 200 countries in 2015 made national pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The study was published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Stanford University’s Rob Jackson is the chair of the Global Carbon Project. He said in an interview with the Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment that almost \$50 billion of stimulus funding after the 2008 recession helped transform wind and solar power and energy conservation.

“We have the same chance to reshape transportation now,” Jackson

said. “We could start by freeing up the \$40 billion in low-interest loans currently idled in the Department of Energy’s clean energy and advanced vehicle loan programs.”

Jackson noted that before the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, emissions of carbon dioxide were rising by about 1% per year over the previous decade. The study points out that it often takes months, or even years, to determine carbon dioxide emissions after the end of each calendar year. But the researchers were able to analyze data from 69 countries, representing 97% of global carbon dioxide emissions, from January through April and compare it to 2019.

The study shows that emissions fell an average of 26% during the

peak period of pandemic lockdowns around the world. The United States, the second largest polluter in the world behind China, reduced carbon dioxide emissions by just over 30% in mid-April.

Indeed, residents of California’s Bay Area and other cities across the country have noticed almost immediately after sheltering in place orders were issued that the skies became noticeably clearer.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to wreak havoc throughout the country and around the world. But it’s possible that we can use the pandemic to help create a cleaner, healthier world. Finding innovative ways to fight climate change is a good place to start.

Life & Style

Movie theaters, shuttered for months, plan July reopening

NEW YORK (AP)—After three months of near total blackout of cinemas nationwide, movie theaters are preparing to reopen—even if it means only a few titles on the marquee and showings limited to as little as 25% capacity.

AMC Theaters, the world's largest theater operator, said Tuesday that it expects to have 97-98% of its theaters worldwide reopened by mid-July. The National Association of Theater Owners, the trade group that represents exhibitors, expects some 90-95% of cinemas around the world will be opened by mid-July.

A lot is still "fluid," as AMC Entertainment's chief executive, Adam Aron, said in a call Tuesday with investors. But provided flare ups of the

coronavirus don't unmake plans, the industry is gearing up for a dramatic resumption of widespread business just in time for Christopher Nolan's "Tenet." The Warner Bros. thriller, the latest from arguably Hollywood's most passionate defender of the big-screen experience, is slated for release July 17.

Warner Bros. didn't comment late Tuesday, and the most recent trailer for "Tenet" was notably vague on its release date. But theater owners are cautiously optimistic that "Tenet" will hold where it is. Aron said that AMC's conversations as recent as Monday with Warner Bros. and Disney, which has "Mulan" slated for July 24, have been reassuring.

Still beside the queen at 99: Prince Philip to mark birthday

LONDON (AP)—There certainly won't be fuss. Count on that.

When Britain's Prince Philip reaches the grand age of 99 on Wednesday, he will spend it quietly and in much the same way he's spent most of his adult life: beside Queen Elizabeth II.

The stalwart consort plans a quiet lunch at Windsor Castle, where the senior royals have been sheltering due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some family members may call but the palace is saying little more than that. Britain is still under coronavirus restrictions that limit the size of gatherings and Philip and

the 94-year-old queen are well into the over-65 age group most vulnerable to coronavirus.

The last year hasn't been an easy one for Philip, who retired from public life in 2017 after 65 years of supporting the queen.

In November, his second son, 60-year-old Prince Andrew, was forced to step away from all royal public duties because of concerns about his links to Jeffrey Epstein, the convicted American sex offender who died in a New York prison. Two months later, Prince Harry, Philip's grandson, and his wife, the former Meghan Markle,

'Cops,' on air for 33 seasons, dropped by Paramount Network

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After 33 seasons on the air, "Cops" has been dropped by the Paramount Network as protests against police proliferate around the world.

"Cops is not on the Paramount Network and we don't have any current or future plans for it to return," a spokesperson for the cable channel said in a statement Tuesday.

The show had been pulled temporarily from the air in late May, when protests aimed at police over the death of George Floyd began to gain momentum. That move was made permanent Tuesday.

It's not clear whether the company that makes the show, Langley Productions, would try to find a new home for it. A voicemail at a company phone



AP
A mural is seen on a boarded up business as a Los Angeles Police Department car drives by, Tuesday, June 9, 2020, in the Hollywood section of Los Angeles.

number was not accepting messages.

The reality show, with its widely known reggae theme

Missouri woman prompts Merriam-Webster to redefine 'racism'

Missouri woman prompts Merriam-Webster to redefine 'racism'

Merriam-Webster is revising its definition of racism after a Missouri woman's emails claimed it fell short of including the systemic oppression of certain groups of people.

Kennedy Mitchum, who lives in the St. Louis suburb

Florissant, said people would argue with her about the definition of racism and she realized the problem was in the Merriam-Webster's dictionary, KMOV-TV reported.

"It's not just disliking someone because of their race," Mitchum wrote in a Facebook post. "This current fight we are in is evidence of that, lives are

at stake because of the systems of oppression that go hand-in-hand with racism."

The revision comes against the backdrop of protests around the country against police brutality after the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a Minneapolis police officer pinned his neck to the ground.

Dalai Lama to release 1st album in July

NEW YORK (AP)—Stressed out while working at a bank in New Zealand, Junelle Kunin began searching for music paired with teachings from the Dalai Lama to calm herself down and allow herself to focus.

But she couldn't find it online.

That's when the musician and practicing Buddhist proposed an idea to The Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama: Let's make an album fusing music with mantras and

chants from the Tibetan spiritual leader.

She was politely turned down. But on a trip to India—where Kunin says she typically gets a chance to meet the Dalai Lama—she asked again, this time writing a letter and handing it to one of his assistants.

Five years later, "Inner World" is born. The album featuring teachings and mantras by the Dalai Lama set to music will be released on July

6, his 85th birthday.

"I'd never heard him speak like this. He really was so excited ... he actually proceeded to explain to me how important music is," Kunin said. "He leaned forward and his eyes were sparkling, and his fingers were rubbing together and he (talked) about how music can help people in a way that he can't; it can transcend differences and return us to our true nature and our good heartedness."

Unequal division of housework puts marriage on stormy path

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for seven years and have two beautiful children. My husband and I both work full-time, yet I do almost all of the household chores. I have asked him repeatedly to help ease my workload and stress by dividing the chores more equitably, but my requests are met minimally and temporarily. This has caused arguments, tension and resentment.

He says, "You and I value different things," or, "This isn't what I want to focus on at home," or, "Your standards are too high and have negatively impacted your relationship with our kids." I do ask our kids to clean up routinely because I want them to be active members of this household, and this is how I was raised.

It's putting a strain on my marriage and affecting my feelings toward my husband. Do I need to let this go? Or are my priorities misplaced?

OUT OF BALANCE IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR OUT OF BALANCE: From your husband's perspective, why should he have to help with the housework if he can jawbone you into doing the lion's share? Perhaps you should offer him a choice — participate more or someone will have to be hired to take some of the burden off your shoulders.

As to your children, please stick to your guns. It is important they master basic housekeeping skills so that when they become adults, they will be able to take care of themselves. Few children relish the idea of doing housework, but

many of them do it anyway as a way to earn an allowance.

DEAR ABBY: I was happily married to the same woman for 51 years. "Jane" was married 42 years to the same man. We were both widowed. We hooked up and were enjoying our time together, but after about three years it all changed.

Do you believe in split personalities, the Jekyll and Hyde thing? Jane started falsely accusing me of having affairs with other women. The last two women she accused me of being involved with I don't even know. The accusations have been coming more frequently. One day she's fine; the next day she is accusing me.

Jane doesn't like vulgar language, and normally she doesn't use it. But when she's accusing me of communicating with these women, she uses words that would make a sailor blush! A researcher's first guess was the early stages of Alzheimer's. I know she is paranoid, but why?

HATES THE CHANGE IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR HATES: A personality change such as you have described can be a symptom of Alzheimer's disease, but it can also be caused by small strokes and other dementias. Jane's paranoia could also be a symptom of a physical illness. If she has family, it is very important that you inform them about what's happening so they—and you—can encourage her to be evaluated physically and neurologically. If you do, it might save not only her life but also your sanity.

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: When I was 21, my grandparents told me, "It's better to be loved than to be right." Fifty years later, I'm still trying to follow that advice because it's so true. Sometimes it is very hard to practice, but I will never forget those words.

KEN IN SHERMAN OAKS, CALIF.

DEAR KEN: Anything that encourages folks to get along better is good advice in my book. People sometimes place too much importance on trying to be right. Now, allow me to share an adage with you that I learned from MY grandfather: "I never learned anything while I was talking."

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



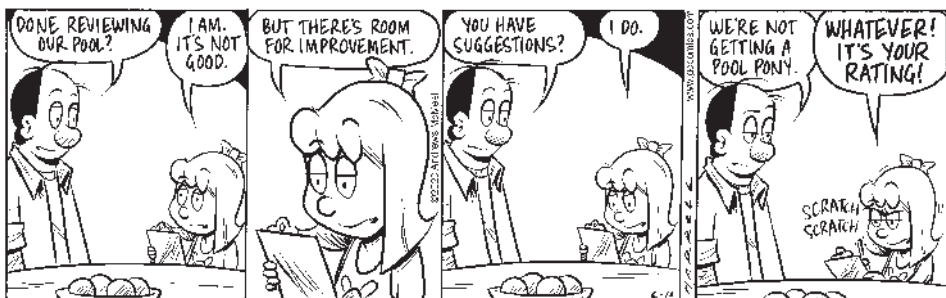
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Robust
5 Pyramid part
9 USSR spy org.
12 Bailiwick
13 Fish story
14 — de cologne
15 "What's happening?"
17 "Evil Woman" band
18 Confuses
19 Void
21 Harris or Asner
22 Anthony Quinn title role
24 Send forth
27 Happy hour venue
28 Physics bit
31 "Mazel —!"
32 Candle count
33 — tizzy (worked up)
34 Goblet feature

DOWN

36 Thai language
37 Dance move
38 Custom
40 "Ten" star
41 Talent
43 Break away
47 "Awesome, dude!"
48 "Amen!"
51 Yale grad
52 Expense
53 "Blessings" author
54 "Dig in!"
55 Billions of years
56 Trails

2 Former Yankee slugger, to fans
3 Salacious
4 Aerie baby
5 Tournament passes
6 Small batteries
7 Lanka lead-in
8 Door sign
9 "Don't give up!"
10 John in "Atlas Shrugged"
11 Channel marker
16 British ref. work
20 CEO's deg.

22 Famed restaurant guide
23 Layered cookie
24 UFO crew
25 Witticism
26 "That's enough!"
27 Indonesian island
29 Indivisible
30 Pirate's chart
35 Avril follower
37 Word with work or network
39 — Canyon National Park
40 Actress Arthur
41 Gratis
42 Chorus syllables
43 Bygone jets
44 Author Ferber
45 Little dent
46 Greek vowels
49 Tic-tac-toe win
50 Admiral's org.

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-11

L	I	M	O	P	E	N	S	W	I	M
A	S	A	P	H	A	I	A	O	N	E
C	A	S	E	W	O	R	K	I	R	W
E	N	T	R	E	E	O	I	N	K	E
B	A	H	A	N	N	O	T	H		
A	L	A	I	X	O	O	D	R	A	W
M	A	R	D	T	R	A	D	E	N	
R	F	I	I	A	V	F	G	E	N	R
I	C	E	T	I	F	A	D	C	A	S
B	R	A	E	R	E	M	L	R	S	A
S	J	D	S	U	N	I	R	E	O	S

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Claire Holt, 32; Shia LaBeouf, 34; Peter Dinklage, 51; Hugh Laurie, 61.

Happy Birthday: Slow down and do things right the first time. Doing research and simplifying matters to fit your needs will help you steadily climb toward reaching your goal. There is no room for anger and petty differences if you want to get ahead. If something isn't working, let it go and head in a direction that is more accommodating. Your numbers are 8, 13, 20, 26, 31, 35, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let the changes others adhere to daunt you. Keep looking and moving forward, and you will reach your destination of choice. A physical change will give you the pick-me-up you need to get involved in something new and exciting. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Look at your options. Someone you have worked with will offer you an alternative that can help you change your focus. Choose the path that not only interests you but offers the rewards you are trying to achieve. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take time to do something that makes you feel good. Update your appearance, pick up a new hobby or pursue a fitness challenge that will make you feel good, look your best and boost your ego. A personal commitment will shape your future. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Embrace new beginnings. Be creative in the way you take care of your everyday chores and responsibilities. Your approach to life will open

doors that were not available to you in the past. Incorporate changes that promote better health and fitness. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Rethink how you spend your cash. Don't let anyone tempt you with something that can affect your reputation or cause problems with someone you love. Concentrate on making changes that will improve your health, well-being and look. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Control your thoughts and emotions, and keep your response steady. Bring about the change you want to happen by offering a reasonable plan of attack to any situation that needs fixing. A passionate discussion will result in a positive change. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A physical effort will be required if you want to get things done your way. Someone will exaggerate a situation to make you look bad. Let your work speak for you. What you accomplish will far exceed what someone says about you. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your ideas in motion. A passionate approach to whatever you decide to do will make a difference to someone who can influence your future. Expand your plans, not your budget. Use what you have, and elaborate using ingenuity. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't share too much with too many. If you embellish, you will not be able to live up to your word. Stick to the truth, align yourself with like-minded people and avoid anyone playing emotional games. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A change to the way or where you live will be energizing. Concentrate on using the past and present to create a future filled with life and prosperity. How you conduct yourself now will have a ripple effect on what lies ahead. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look at the human aspect of a situation, and you'll find an innovative way to make positive adjustments. A change you make will spark your imagination and encourage you to incorporate rules that will lead to a healthier life. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be eager to make a change, but before you do, consider who will be affected by the decisions you make. A discussion beforehand will lead to fair compensation that will allow you to move forward without conflict. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are respectful, conscientious and a self-starter. You are humorous and well-liked.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			7			5				
		8	2			7				
3	5			1				4		
								3	1	
			6			8				
7	9									
	1			5				9	7	
		3			4	6				
		2			8					

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/11

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	5	4	8	1	6	7	9	2
8	9	7	3	4	2	5	6	1
6	1	2	5	9	7	3	4	8
5	3	9	1	2	4	6	8	7
4	7	8	6	5	3	1	2	9
1	2	6	7	8	9	4	5	3
2	8	1	4	7	5	9	3	6
9	4	3	2	6	1	8	7	5
7	6	5	9	3	8	2	1	4

Difficulty Level ★★★

6/11

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IN YOUR KITCHEN CUPBOARDS

Solution: 6 letters

E K T U P P E R W A R E P G P
U L P U O S A S R O O D L L E
S T B S U G A R P V C S A A E
R E E I E U N A E O C T S S L
E A I N S M N N F A E O T S E
X S I A S S M F N S P R I E R
I V L G R I E S E O R A C S S
M T A A T E L C T I K G W T S
U B J T S E N S C R O E R E S
N S S P W A E E E A O V A K E
I E U O I V R W P I B R P S H
M C T L L E A H O O K S E A S
U I P E A R E N I L O O S B I
L P H L D R I N K S O F O O D
A S R E N I A T N O C L O C K

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6/11

Accessible, Aluminum, Appliances, Bags, Baskets, Cans, Cereal, Coffee, Containers, Cookbook, Cookies, Cups, Dishes, Doors, Drawer, Drinks, Food, Gear, Glasses, Hooks, Jars, Liner, Lock, Mixers, Mugs, Opener, Oven Mitts, Pans, Peelers, Plastic Wrap, Plates, Pots, Rice, Salt, Shelves, Soup, Spices, Storage, Sugar, Teas, Towels, Tupperware, Utensils, Vinegar

Yesterday's Answer: Devotion

The NEW Treasury 39 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED?

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NBA could compress schedule next season



NEW YORK—If you thought the NBA was innovative in the way they resumed the 2019-20 NBA season, wait until you read about how they're attempting to start the upcoming 2020-21 season.

"The NBA has indicated to the league's GMs that next year's schedule could be condensed in order to try to keep the league as close to its usual timeline as possible," Atlanta Hawks general manager told ESPN's Tim Bontemps.

This reported effort by the NBA to keep the league "as close to its usual timeline as possible," would be quite tricky to work through, especially if the NBA's primary focus is to protect its players.

A shortened season, starting on December 1st, wouldn't give teams who participated in a lengthy postseason run in Orlando, a reasonable rest period. Remember, Game 7 of the NBA Finals, if needed, would be October 12th.

In addition to a quick turnaround for teams involved in a deep postseason run, in order to operate under a condensed schedule, there would be the implementation of more back-to-back games as well as sets of four games in five nights, Bontemps reported.

When the NBA announced its 2019-20 schedule back in May of last year, it featured earlier tipoffs and fewer back-to-backs. "It's something that I think we have to address," commissioner Adam Silver said.

Heading into this season, for the fifth straight year, the NBA discovered methods to lower the average number of times a team has to play on consecutive days. The league average this season was 12.4 back-to-backs, down from 13.3 last season and 36 percent down from the average of 19.3 five years ago.

Decision time for Raptors

The Toronto Raptors have an NBA championship to defend, a very long stay at the Disney complex awaiting them and plenty of unanswered questions on how the restart of the season will work.

As the NBA's lone Canadian team, there's an added complexity: The U.S. border.

Raptors coach Nick Nurse said Tuesday that his team is still working through various scenarios for having workouts before heading to Disney World near Orlando, Florida along with 21 other teams next month for the restart of the season. Teams are expected at Disney around July 7, though the expectation is that the



league will permit practices before that date.

"We haven't really made a final decision on it on a date

to reconvene, or where we're going, or any of that kind of

stuff yet," Nurse said in a call with Toronto media. "We've

^{AP}
In this March 5, 2020 file photo, Toronto Raptors guard Terence Davis II (0) dunks against Golden State Warriors' Juan Toscano-Anderson (95) and Marquese Chriss (32), while Stephen Curry looks on during an NBA game in San Francisco.

made plans on both sides of the border, just for doing it as safe as possible. It's kind of our first and foremost priority—then maybe as quickly as possible, too."

For the Raptors, the issue of how to proceed largely stems from Canadian government regulations currently in place that call for a 14-day quarantine for people returning to Canada. Some Raptors players are in Toronto right now; some are in the U.S.

Getting those players from Canada—or other countries—into the U.S. is a process streamlined somewhat by an order signed last month by Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad F. Wolf, one that provided the exemption for professional athletes from rules put in place during the pandemic that would have otherwise barred their entry into the U.S.

"We've still got a few options that we're looking at," Nurse said.

The NBA hasn't released many details of the plan for how things will work at Disney yet, with many items still being worked out in talks with the National Basketball Players Association and other entities. What is known, however, is a tentative schedule where teams arrive in early July, play begins in late July and Game 7 of the NBA Finals could be as late as Oct. 12.

That means a team, if it makes the title series, could spend nearly 100 days at Disney before going home. And if the Raptors choose to have a training camp in the U.S. beforehand, that would obviously add a few more days to their away-from-home total.

Nurse said he thinks the NBA is giving teams enough time to get ready between practice and the likelihood of a couple of scrimmages before the games—seeding games, the NBA is calling them, though they will factor into the regular season standings—finally begin again. Teams have not played since the NBA suspended the season March 11 because of coronavirus concerns.

"We still don't quite have all the information, but that's getting closer," Nurse said. "Day by day, it gets closer, and then we'll make a final decision." (NBC/AP)

With season over, Knicks to start rebuilding

NEW YORK (AP)—Leon Rose took over as Knicks president on March 2, which should have given him a month and a half of season to evaluate his team.

He got a week and a half.

The Knicks played only six games before the season was suspended because of the coronavirus. There will be no more for them, because they are not among the 22 teams who will resume in Florida.

So with another losing season over, the longtime player agent can begin making changes that can perhaps finally move the Knicks in a positive direction.

The Knicks finished 21-45, extending the worst stretch in franchise history by missing the playoffs for the seventh straight season.

The turmoil started early, even by Knicks standards. Coach David Fizdale was fired just 22 games into his second season and Steve Mills was dismissed as president in February.

Mike Miller guided the team as interim coach after Fizdale's departure and had the Knicks defending and competing much better, but Rose is likely to search for yet

another new coach.

His plans are unknown. Rose hasn't talked to the media since taking over the job.

He should have opportunities to improve the team through the draft. The Knicks will have another lottery pick this season and own seven first-round picks over the next four years.

Their top pick last year, No. 3 selection RJ Barrett, finished well to average 14.3 points for the season. But Kevin Knox II had an alarming drop in his second season, averaging 6.4 points after scoring 12.8 per game after being taken No. 9 in the 2018 draft.

He needs to bounce back and any new additions will have to perform well to catch up one of the NBA's most punchless teams in an era where offenses rule. The Knicks averaged 105.8 points, ranking 29th in the 30-team league.

Miller went 17-27 after replacing Fizdale and earned respect for the way he handled the team and all its distractions. But Rose will have intriguing options to consider, including former Knicks assistants Tom Thibodeau and Kenny Atkinson, who reached the play-

offs as head coaches. Former Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy and player Mark Jackson are also available, and Rose has a relationship with Kentucky coach John Calipari.

Cavs will use summer slight as motivation

In Cleveland, the Cavaliers are missing from the NBA's Disney World summer bubble. They hope Commissioner Adam Silver doesn't need to pop their plans again.

One of eight teams whose COVID-19-interrupted season ended when the league decided to resume play with 22 teams in Florida next month, the Cavs are using their omission as fuel.

"Whatever it is we have to do as a group this summer to get better, we need to go out and do that," coach J.B. Bickerstaff said Tuesday on a Zoom call. "Whatever party the NBA is throwing, this one happens to be in Orlando, we need to do whatever we can in our power to make sure that we're getting invited to the party -- and that's been the message to our guys."

The Disney slight was an odd finish to the Cavs'

strange, staggered season. It will be remembered for first-year coach John Beilein's stunning departure at the All-Star break, the acquisition of star center Andre Drummond and the team's brief resurgence under Bickerstaff, who exuded restraint while making it clear he isn't happy about Cleveland's exclusion.

Bickerstaff said the Cavs will be "good partners" with the league in showing support for the 22-team format. However, they're missing out on opportunity to bond, compete and develop. Bickerstaff is hoping the league will come up with a suitable alternative to offset what he believes is a significant competitive disadvantage for the outside eight.

"We're fighting like hell to get something done," he said.

Bickerstaff has had discussions with coaches from the other seven teams as they try to navigate through yet another unexpected challenge. He worries about the adverse impact of a prolonged lay-off—the Cavs' last game was March 10 before the shutdown—on his young squad.

MLB players cut to 89 games, want prorated money



NEW YORK (AP)—Base-

ball players moved toward teams but remained far apart economically in their latest proposal for starting the pandemic-delayed season, adamant they receive full prorated salaries while offering to cut the regular season to 89 games.

The proposal by the players' association, given to Major League Baseball electronically Tuesday evening without a negotiating session, was detailed to The Associated Press by a pair of people familiar with the negotiations. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no announcements were authorized.

MLB did not appear to view the proposal as productive but made no comment. MLB has said that absent an agreement it could go ahead with a shorter schedule of perhaps 50 games.

Players made their move one day after management cut its proposed schedule from 82 games to 76. The union proposed the regular season start July 10 and end Oct. 11—the day before a possible Game 7 of the NBA Finals.

The union accepted MLB's plan to expand the postseason from 10 teams to as many as 16. However, if management announces a schedule without an agreement, it would not be able to alter the established postseason format.

The players' plan would have the World Series end in mid-to-late November, and players said they would accept MLB's proposal to have the ability to shift postseason games to neutral sites.

Teams say they fear a second wave of the coronavirus and do not want to extend the World Series past October. Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem told the union a 76-game schedule could not be staged unless players agreed to a deal by Wednesday.

Players continue to insist on full prorated salaries as specified in the March 26 agreement between the perpetually



AP
In this Feb. 29, 2020 file photo, the New York Yankees' Gerrit Cole throws against the Detroit Tigers during a spring training baseball game in West Palm Beach, Fla.

feuding sides. The deal gave players service time in the event no games are played this year along with a \$170 million salary advance.

MLB says that because the season likely would be played in empty ballparks without fans, the absence of gate-related revenue would lead to a loss of \$640,000 for each additional game played, a figure the union questions. MLB's proposal would guarantee players 50% of prorated salaries and another 20% if the postseason is completed, and teams would fund a \$50 million pool for players' postseason shares even if no or few tickets or sold. MLB also would forgive 20% of the salary advance.

Players had been set to earn

about \$4 billion in salaries this year before opening day was pushed back from March 26 due to the new coronavirus, and the union's initial economic proposal on May 31 called for a 114-game schedule running through October and salaries totaling \$2.8 billion. The shorter schedule in the new plan lowered the amount to about \$2.2 billion.

MLB's offer Monday was for just under \$1.3 billion in salaries, but only about \$1 billion would be guaranteed. The rest is contingent on the postseason's completion.

Mike Trout and Gerrit Cole, the highest-paid players with \$36 million salaries, would get \$19,777,778 each under the union's plan. MLB's offer would guarantee each

\$8,723,967 with the chance to increase to \$12,190,633 apiece if the postseason is completed.

A player at the \$563,500 minimum would earn \$309,577 under the union plan and up to \$244,492 from MLB's offer. Those at \$1 million—about half those on current active rosters—would get \$549,383 under the union proposal and up to \$389,496 in the MLB formula.

A 50-game schedule with prorated salaries would total just over \$1.2 billion and leave Cole and Trout at \$11,111,111 each.

Players proposed that \$5 million from joint management-union funds be marked toward supporting non-union minor leaguers and social causes. Players would agree to participate in events such as an

offseason All-Star Game and/or Home Run Derby and to broadcast enhancements such as wearing microphones during games.

The union did not accept management's offer to suspend free-agent compensation this offseason, which would eliminate the qualifying offers that cause some teams to decline to pursue players.

Players accepted MLB's proposal that high-risk players could opt out of this season while receiving salary and service time, but that other players who opt out would not receive salary or service time.

Meanwhile, the Detroit Tigers are rebuilding around an impressive group of minor league pitchers.

Now, it might be time to

add a star hitting prospect to the mix.

Whether it's Arizona State slugger Spencer Torkelson or somebody else, Detroit has a chance to add another potential standout when it makes the No. 1 selection in Wednesday night's draft. Although the Tigers have been vague about their intentions, this is an opportunity to add a young position player to an organization that has done a better job stocking up on pitching prospects lately.

"You've got to get the best guy, that's number one," Scott Pleis, Detroit's director of amateur scouting, said recently. "And then hopefully it falls into your needs, also, and then everybody's happy."

This year, the best guy may be Torkelson, who is ranked by mlb.com as the No. 1 prospect in the draft. Second on that list is Vanderbilt's Austin Martin, another position player. Texas A&M pitcher Asa Lacy is No. 3.

Torkelson, a junior first baseman, has hit 54 home runs in 129 career games at Arizona State. On a conference call with reporters Tuesday, general manager Al Avila was asked directly if the Tigers were planning to pick Torkelson. Not surprisingly, the GM was coy in his response.

"It's a question we can't answer today," Avila said.

It's the second time in three years Detroit is picking first. The Tigers took right-hander Casey Mize with the top pick in 2018, and he's one of a handful of highly touted minor league pitchers in their system. Matt Manning and Tarik Skubal have also achieved a good bit of acclaim. If a season is played this year, any of them could end up in the majors at some point.

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Top-ranked Novak Djokovic is thinking of skipping the U.S. Open—if it is played—and instead returning to competition on clay ahead of the rescheduled French Open.

Speaking to Serbia's state broadcaster RTS on Tuesday, Djokovic said the restrictions that would be in place for the Grand Slam tournament in New York because of the coronavirus pandemic would be "extreme" and not "sustainable."

"Most of the players I have talked to were quite negative on whether they would go there," Djokovic said. "For

Djokovic may skip US Open for French Open prep

me currently, as things stand, most probably the season will continue on clay at the beginning of September."

Like many sports, tennis went on hiatus in March because of the COVID-19 outbreak. All sanctioned tournaments have been scrapped until at least late July.

That includes the French Open, which was supposed to end last weekend but was postponed until September, and Wimbledon, which was canceled for the first time since 1945.

The U.S. Tennis Association is expected to make a decision as soon as next week about whether to hold the U.S. Open. Main-draw play is scheduled to begin Aug. 31.

If that tournament is played, possible precautions

that Djokovic said he wouldn't appreciate include: a 14-day quarantine required for people arriving from outside of the U.S.; restricted access to courts, which he said means players wouldn't be able to

train; a limit of one person per competitor at matches, instead of the larger entourages some players travel with; limited ability to move around New York, including keeping players at hotels near the tournament site in Queens and not letting them go to Manhattan.

"Quite extreme conditions for playing," Djokovic said. "I don't think that is sustainable."

Meanwhile, the tennis rankings that come out after the 2021 French Open will be used

to determine who qualifies for the postponed Tokyo Olympics.

The International Tennis Federation said Tuesday that its eligibility rules will be the same as originally set up for Tokyo, with requirements related to minimum participation in Fed Cup or Davis Cup—and an appeals process for players who do not meet those standards.

The cutoff for ATP and WTA rankings points for the 2020 Games originally had been Monday, the day after this year's French Open was

supposed to end.

But because of the coronavirus pandemic, the Olympics were pushed back a year from next month to July 2021. The 2020 French Open also was postponed and is now scheduled to start in September.

Next year's French Open will end on June 6, so the WTA and ATP rankings of June 7 will be used to help determine who qualifies for the Olympics.

For the Paralympic wheelchair tennis event, the ITF said that all athletes who would have been eligible in 2020 will remain eligible next year.



Newton: MVP, proven winner, but no taker



NORTH CAROLINA—Here is a list of the quarterbacks who have been signed across the NFL since 23 March: Jameis Winston, Joe Flacco, Geno Smith, Andy Dalton, Blaine Gabbert, David Fales, Mike Glennon and Tyler Bray.

There is one name conspicuous in its absence: Cam Newton. The former NFL MVP was released nearly two and a half months ago and yet remains without a team.

"I'm told from sources that his market has cooled considerably in the last month or so," ESPN's Jeremy Fowler said. "It is believed that he spoke to the Patriots at some point early in free agency around March. Since then, nothing."

As a collective, the NFL has seemingly given up on Newton, a player who entered the second half of the 2010s as a bona fide superstar—someone who was a unanimous top-five selection in any "which quarterback would you start a franchise with for the next decade" discussions.

Throughout his time in the league, Newton has embodied zeal and energy, a bundle of happiness and ego with an



^{AP}
In this undated file photo, former Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton throws the ball during a game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Charlotte, N.C.

timing passing concepts and instead built an offensive identity around what Newton did best, handing him complete command of the offense.

It worked! For that year, Newton was as close to an unstoppable force as anything we've seen this side of Patrick Mahomes. Cheat down to stop the run, and Newton would launch the ball behind the defense. Load up in the passing game, and the Panthers would turn the game into a series of 1v1 matchups, only their one, Newton, was bigger, fast and stronger than anything on your side of the field.

That we're even reflecting on Newton's past greatness is both fitting and odd. Right now should be the apex of his powers, the moment when his athletic skills and technical nous coalesce to make him a consistent top-five quarterback rather than the high-variance version he was in his early years. He should be the cornerstone of a perennial Su-

per Bowl contender. Instead, he's a street free agent being passed up for jobs by a fossilized Joe Flacco.

Whether or not Newton is still able to ratchet it up to his old level is hardly a debate—he almost certainly cannot. It's not as though he's sustained one serious injury or repeat injuries within the same area. He is now up to multiple injuries in multiple spots, the most recent of which impact his two key traits: his throwing shoulder (throwing power) and his feet (speed). But could he still be an effective starter who could do for a team what Ryan Tannehill did for the Titans last season? Controlling the flow of the game and then making big plays on third downs? Sure. Why not?

Almost every team in the league has now settled on its starting quarterback for the 2020 season. And those who may be lukewarm on their starter have made a strong dent in their cap sheet by trying to surround their quarterback with as much talent as possible. Trying to find a spot that has both a potential starting spot for Newton and the money he would command is difficult. The Patriots are about it.

GAME

From Page 20

to contribute to its success.

"We love soccer, that's why we are here," Sekiguchi said.

Mita added that it's not only coaches or players who are showing love for the game, but also their supporters.

"The volunteer coaches, managers, parents, and even the people watching the game. Without them, without their passion for the game, we won't see development in football in the CNMI. And of course, our NMIFA officials under the leadership of our president, Jerry Tan. These important people make our job as coaches easier because of the support we are getting from them," Mita said.

The NMIFA technical director also said that the initiative's main proponents and supporters make the CNMI's soccer grassroots program work despite it being relatively new and smaller compared to other established countries.

"We maybe small, but our system works because of our volunteers. Everyone works together," Mita said.

Meanwhile, Mita and company wish to see and develop more coaches in the CNMI for the continued improvement of the sport on the islands. They also shared some "tools of the trade" to aspiring coaches.

"Have the mindset of always players first. Making

players better will make you a better coach," Mita said.

Kambe reminded coaches, especially those who are just starting to work on their team, not to worry much about the results of the game. He said a coach must first focus on what he needs to teach his players and the things they need to do during training and games, as results will come later.

Sekiguchi, on the other hand, said coaches must remain positive no matter what situation the team is at. Having a coach who always looks at the bright side of things will help motivate players to do better and encourage them to stay in the program.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director and CNMI coach Michiteru Mita explains a formation to his players during a training camp in Japan in 2016. ^{CONTRIBUTED PHOTO}



Coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, standing right, is all smiles as he joins the CNMI Boys U15 National Team players and officials for a group photo after their historic 2-1 win over Macau in the 2011 East Asian Football Federation U15 Youth Tournament in Chinese-Taipei. ^{CONTRIBUTED PHOTO}



Former CNMI coach Sugao Kambe now calls the shots for a club in Thailand. ^{CONTRIBUTED PHOTO}

FLASHBACK

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their way to a 6-4 win. Then in the second set, the CNMI-New Zealand duo showed pure dominance after taking a 6-0 triumph.

After the sweep, Lee stayed in New Caledonia for one more week to play in the Open BNP Paribas Junior de Nouvelle-Caledonie and notched another singles crown and her fourth straight ITF Juniors title in less than two months.

In the Open BNP Paribas Junior, Lee had a familiar final's foe in Mohamed and the CNMI player picked up where she left off after topping the Frenchwoman in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2.

Lee also played in the doubles finals of the same event, but she and Stewart fell to No. 1 seed Sara Tsukamoto and Otoha Aoki, 3-6, 3-6.

Before her back-to-back competitions in New Caledonia, the then 15-year-old Lee was in Morocco and won the doubles title (with Skyler Marie Grace Grishuk of the U.S.) in the RUC Tennis Junior Open for her first championship in the ITF Juniors Circuit.

Lee finished her junior tennis career last year and is now heading to the National Collegiate Athletic Association to play for Division I school Georgia Tech on a full athletic scholarship.



NBA could compress schedule next season

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MLB players cut to 89 games, want prorated money

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'For the love of the game'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI National Team coaches, past and present, don't consider as sacrifices the things they did or are doing for their squad.

"It's for the love of the game," said Sugao Kambe, who coached the CNMI men's and women's national teams in 2009.

Kambe, Kiyoshi Sekiguchi, who called the shots for the Commonwealth squad in 2010-2011 and 2014-2016, and current coach and Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita joined NMIFA Executive Committee member Norman Del Rosario on Episode 4 of *Footcast with Norman* last Saturday and talked about their time with the national team and their coaching career.

"I don't want to call them sacrifices because I love to help players get success. I do these things because I want to teach them how to become better players," added Kambe, who is now based in Thailand coaching a professional club.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2019 file photo, the CNMI Boys U19 National Team players sing the Commonwealth anthem during the ceremony for their game against Brunei in Group G of the Asian Football Confederation U19 Championship 2020 Qualifiers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



Sekiguchi and Mita echoed Kambe's thoughts, saying that if you have love and passion for soccer, or for anything, you will be very much willing to do your part

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2019 file photo, CNMI head coach Michiteru Mita shouts instructions to the CNMI Boys U18 National Team during their game against Beijing Elite Core Football Club in the Northern Marianas Invitational Football Tournament at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Flashback: Carol dominates ITF tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pacific Games gold medalist Carol Lee, three years ago today, delivered in back-to-back title matches in the New Caledonia ITF Junior 2017 played at the Ligue Caledonienne De Tennis in Noumea.

She first saw action in the singles finals match against France's Helena Mohamed and took two sets to clinch the championship. The No. 1-seed Lee eked out a 7-5 victory in the first set before cruising to a 6-2 triumph in the second to complete the

sweep and get her second title in the ITF Juniors Circuit.

The third one came a few hours later, as Lee returned to the court with



New Zealand's Holly Stewart to challenge Australia's Chiara Di Tommaso Grace Schumacher in the doubles finals. Lee and Stewart were

put to a test by their Aussie foes in the first set, as the eventual champions worked

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this 2017 file photo, Carol Lee competes in the Northern Marianas Junior Championships at the Pacific Islands Club court before heading to New Caledonia for two more ITF Juniors Circuit events.